



Lutheran  
Teacher's  
Association

# Newsletter

## LTA Executive Greeting

By the time you read this article, I, along with my class of seventeen kindergarten students, will already have been to Bangkok, Thailand on a Mission trip. Before you stop reading for fear that I have thoroughly lost my faculties, let me explain.

God constantly amazes me with how He works! Last April my husband and I purchased an airline ticket for our twenty-year-old son to go to Bangkok for a university co-op job followed by a term of international studies. Not believing in coincidences, when I opened up my bag of "goodies" at the LTA Conference in August and saw an advertisement encouraging classes to participate on-line in a Mission Trip to Thailand with Lutheran Hour Ministries I knew that I had to do it. I also felt that despite our son having a return ticket on December 24<sup>th</sup>, he somehow would still be in Thailand come January. Sure enough he has fallen in love with the Thai culture and is not coming home until April and then will likely return when he graduates from university in August. Myself, I had little interest in visiting Thailand, but after hearing stories about the happiness of the people, their strong sense of family, the beauty of the landscape, and their faith in Buddha, I have felt an urgent need to "know" these people.

### *Jeremiah 1:7-8*

*But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.*

When God called Jeremiah, Jeremiah responded in much the same way as Moses. God reminded Jeremiah that He would walk with him and protect him. God reminds Jeremiah that youth and inexperience are not excuses to decline God's call to "GO". As a teacher of little ones I need to be reminded that God calls everyone to "GO" and not to be afraid as God is with each one of us. I also realize that God has allowed for us to connect with others around the world so easily through technology. When we Skyped our son into Christmas dinner the virtual experience connected us in a special way. I am so looking forward to taking my "Kindies" to Thailand on a Mission Trip to connect them to the work of bringing the news of Jesus to the Thai people who are in such need to know Him as their Saviour. I feel urgency for these strangers who have welcomed and cared for my son, to experience true peace in knowing that Jesus has paid the debt for our transgressions upon the cross and freely gives us eternal life.

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## LTA EXECUTIVE GREETING CONTINUED

In addition to our “virtual experience,” the children will also be reaching out to our local community along with the entire school as we participate in servant events as part of Hope’s Servant Day. What an opportunity to be the hands and feet of God to our neighbours!

I invite you to pray for the ministry of the Lutheran Hour particularly in their Thailand Ministry Centre as they serve communities and proclaim Jesus as their Saviour. Please pray that God would find ways to bring our Thai friends and U.S. and Canadian neighbours into His kingdom.

Submitted by Susan Eisner, LTA President  
Hope Lutheran Christian School, Port Coquitlam, BC

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## Job Well Done

Hope Lutheran Christian School in Port Coquitlam recently had a government inspection for the purposes of approving their new Grade 11 program. One of the things that was being examined was the Religious Studies course currently being offered for four credits. Hope is piloting the new Christian Studies curriculum that has been developed by so many of the educators across Canada. The inspector was impressed with the Grade 11 material and asked to see the rest of it. He was shown the [lutheranschoolonline.com](http://lutheranschoolonline.com) website, and again was amazed at all the work that had been done. Not only did he approve the Grade 11 program, but as he viewed the scope and sequence of the curriculum, he approved Grades 10 and 12 as well to be offered at Hope for High School credit! We give thanks to God for His blessings of this new program, and are thankful for all the time and effort that has been put in by so many people in developing it. We still have a ways to go, but this is certainly a time to celebrate all of the work so far.

Congratulations, LTA. Job well done!



Submitted by Mike Schiemann  
Hope Lutheran Christian School, Port Coquitlam, BC

## Advent Concert

As the season of Epiphany comes to a close, I for one can't help but look back at our December school Advent concert with fond recollection. Every year since I've been here at Saint Matthew Lutheran School, Beth Schiemann (St. Matthew kindergarten teacher) selects and puts together one fantastic celebration after another. This past year's Advent presentation (K-9) entitled, "For the Glory of the King" was no different from the rest – fantastic!

This Christmas musical tells the story of a group of students finishing a rehearsal for a Christmas play led by their teacher Mrs. Park. One of the students, Bradley, is in a rush to open his presents, which is apparently, according to him, more important than the Christmas message. In the end, Bradley comes to his senses realizing the best gift of Christmas is the one he can't see, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Bradley saw the light!

A short excerpt from title song of the Christmas musical, "For the Glory of the King", sums up the greatest event in human history,

"Angels shouting declarations as the stars reveal the wonder  
of the joy of all the heavens. O holy night.  
Breaking through the veil of history,  
shining through the waiting darkness,  
gathering to shout salvation – a glorious light  
This is the moment we've all waited for.  
....For the glory of the King.  
For the honour of His name."

Great song, great concert, great message!

Submitted by Gary Skoye  
St. Matthew Lutheran School, Stony Plain, AB



## 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](mailto:seisner@hopelcs.ca) or by regular mail: c/o Hope Lutheran Christian School 3151 York St., Port Coquitlam, BC, V3B 4A7

**Nominations must be received by June 15, 2013**



## LTA Conference Survey

A survey will be sent to all administrators of Lutheran Schools in Canada about future LTA Conferences. The LTA Executive wants input from all administrators and staffs about the conferences. If you have not heard anything and would like to have input please see your administrator or contact Susan Eisner at [seisner@hopelcs.ca](mailto:seisner@hopelcs.ca).

## Canadian Lutheran World Relief

### Apply today and experience Peru with Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Calling all 18 to 35-year-old Canadian Lutherans: this is an opportunity to see some amazing work happening in Peru! In May 2013, Canadian Lutheran World Relief will take a group of young adults to [Peru](#) to experience its unique culture and see first-hand the development and environmental projects it supports on behalf of Lutherans in Canada. Applications are due January 28. For more information or to apply, go to [bit.ly/YAGEclwr](http://bit.ly/YAGEclwr). To learn more about the work being carried out by CLWR here in Canada and around the globe, please go to [www.clwr.org](http://www.clwr.org).

*Photo: Valeria Caqui is assisted by Diaconia, one of CLWR's Peruvian partners, in diversifying her crops. Photo courtesy of Diaconia.*



### School supplies make a difference to students in South Sudan

CLWR is always looking for donations of school supplies to our We Care program. They are sent to children overseas who are affected by poverty or living in refugee camps and are in need of basic items that we take for granted, like pencils and notebooks, to help them continue their education. Part of our recent shipment to Kenya will soon continue its journey to South Sudan, where over two thousand *Learning & Living* kits will benefit children living in the Gendrassa and Yusuf Batil refugee camps. Violence between government forces and insurgent groups in Sudan has forced these children and their families to flee their homes. You can read more about these young Sudanese students determined to learn at [bit.ly/SudaneseStudents](http://bit.ly/SudaneseStudents).



You can find more information on donating We Care Learning and Living kits at [bit.ly/WeCarekits](http://bit.ly/WeCarekits).

*Photo: Girls in an outdoor classroom in Gendrassa camp. Education for girls is a priority. Lutheran World Federation-run schools in the camp aim to give girls and boys the same chance to learn. Photo by Paul Jeffrey.*



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

**LTA EXECUTIVE**



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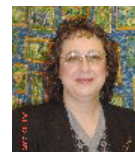
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