

Growing in God's Grace

At the end of 2020 we had hoped to be back to regular programming, visiting congregations and delivering materials and workshops in person so it has been disappointing to our human planning that things have continued as they are. Thank the Lord we are not in control and instead we have submitted ourselves to God's plan in all of this, meeting people where they are. Most of the time, where they are at is online so we have continued with as much digital connection as possible.

Staffing Changes

With worldly challenges dragging on into the spring we were faced with a new obstacle when long-time staff member Sharon McKie decided to retire early and support her family as a stay-at-home grandma. This sent us scrambling to figure out how to manage without Sharon in the rapidly changing work environment while meeting the unique needs of members and congregations brought on by a global pandemic. In an answer to prayers, and within 24 hours of learning of Sharon's retirement, my son Benjamin jumped in to provide some part-time support and Courtney Marshall added a few more hours to keep things running.



Sharon McKie

We had already planned to share a summer intern with Lutheran Church-Canada Communications Director, Alex Steinke, and instead of settling on



Top left, clockwise: Julia Flor, Alex Steinke, Anna Kraemer, Lisa Jackson

just one candidate, Alex and I decided to share the talented duo of Julia Flor and Anna Kraemer for the summer. For more details about how the experience not only provided great work experience for two fantastic young members of Lutheran Church-Canada, but also provided fresh, new insights to both LCC Communications and LLL Canada, you can read about it in the September/October issue of *The Canadian Lutheran* or go to www.canadianlutheran.ca/lcc-lllc-communications-internship-reflections.

With all these supports in place I was able to take some time to do a needs assessment and launch a job search based on where LLL Canada is heading, rather than just filling a vacant spot.

As the published job posting was ending, I was spending lots of time in prayer—wondering where God was leading us. Courtney Marshall—who had been coming in once a week as backup support—suggested that she would be interested in increasing her hours with us—gradually over a few months. I interviewed Aleta Abraham and was struck by her heart for missions and her experience and skills with digital media and technology. Finally, Ron Ludke reached out seeking a place to share his many years of experience on a part-time basis after retiring from LAMP.



Ron Ludke

Praise the Lord, for I am now surrounded by a work family of believers who are passionate about sharing the Gospel through the tools and resources of LLL and LHM Canada, as well as a diverse and supportive board of directors.

Board of Directors, new and continuing

At the Annual General Meeting, which took place on Saturday November 6, Gordon Schoepp ended his time as board president after many years of service to LLL Canada. Brian Wardle also finished his second term. Newly elected board members Rev. Wally Hambrock, Joshua Gajdos and Darla Budan were installed. The membership also voted in Joel Haberstock as president.

Stephen Braaten was re-elected for a second term and resumed his role of board treasurer while Marilyn Jacobi, in the last year of her second term, continues as board secretary. Pastor Keith Haberstock continues to serve us as Pastoral Advisor.

Engaging New and Long-time Supporters

Most of our broadcast sponsors have already gotten to know Aleta quite well. She has found



Aleta Abraham

ways to engage new listeners and create specialized messages that steer people to the Gospel message. Ron has introduced himself to a large percentage of our donors and supporters, letting them know how much we value their loyal support over the years. Behind the scenes Courtney has been working hard to streamline and document processes that help all of us work together more efficiently.

Support for French speakers in Canada and Around the World

During the staffing changes and office upheaval the need for resources and support never stopped and serving the French speakers in Canada and throughout the world, has been a priority. As Advent approaches, we are coming up to a year since we launched our French Language Facebook page and are rejoicing at what the Holy Spirit has done with our attempts to share the Gospel. Our digital reach to French speakers through Facebook is in the tens of thousands. Pastor David Somers is always coming

LLL Canada is growing

Here's how you can reach us:



up with new ideas on how we can work together to support French-speaking Christians across Canada and one item that has been constantly on his mind is how to make something available like our weekly Kid's Lectionary Learning that we produce in English. Over the summer we were finally able to get this started with the help of summer intern Julia Flor. Kid's Activity Pages were created in French (and Portuguese) for Reformation and Advent, and we will continue to build on this library of children's resources.

Exciting Resources for Children

Speaking of Kid's Lectionary Learning, these weekly activity pages—which began as a support for teaching and focus for children during at home worship—have grown into a regular part of what we do. During

Advent, Pastor Cody Cooper augmented the learning by adding several pages to mark the important events in our church year and designed a mini magazine layout for Holy Week. The unique and liturgical content is so welcomed by our community in Canada that we are now including a parent/teacher guide outlining the text, providing explanation for the images and helping prepare adult hearts so they may lead children through the content.

Since we started offering *The Illuminated Catechism* to all catechumens, we have sent over 150 copies to churches across

Canada, and we continue to have requests for the book in both English and our Canadian French language version. It is a joy to be able to offer this gift, welcoming newly confirmed children (and some adults) into the LCC family.



Kids Lectionary Learning by Rev. Cody Cooper of Barrhead, Alta.



Sample page from *The Illuminated Catechism*.

NEW

planning@lll.ca

This new email address is how you get in touch with Ron Ludke—our new Development Officer. He can help you with estate and planned giving

As always, you can reach us on the phone by calling:

1-800-555-6236

or through surface mail at

Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada
270 Lawrence Ave, Kitchener, ON
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Better Together

Over the past three years Lutheran Hour Ministries has been releasing a series of materials based on the research done in partnership with The Barna Group. These resources have walked us through the important steps of acknowledging our fear and developing skills to *talk about our faith* and apply spiritual disciplines and welcome others to nurture *households of faith*. In 2021 LHM launched *The Hopeful Neighborhood Project* and made resources available to address how we as Christians can better serve our neighbour. The third contribution to this series of important work based on scripture and research was released just in time. People are longing to reconnect and have fellowship after the long absence



from one another because of restrictions from the pandemic. Communities across North America, including several in Canada, are reading and studying together and using the tools found in the *Better Together* kit to visibly

express love for their neighbour. Some groups are small—like the neighbourhood group being led by



Cynthia Toews. Cynthia and her family have invited members from their community of Plumas, Manitoba, to join forces and do good together out of their love for Jesus. Some groups are larger, and encompass a whole circuit of congregations, reaching out and launching coordinated neighbourhood projects across their whole municipality. It is uplifting to learn how Lutherans across Canada are embracing their vocation and demonstrating the love of Jesus by serving their neighbour.

Back to School

In January I began part-time studies at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines—working toward an MTS (Master of Theological Studies). My intent for studying is to be a better leader and more learned Lutheran. Being a part of the student body and the continual focus on the word is helping to develop a discerning eye and a community of support so I might better assess the content of resources and serve in my position as Director of LLL Canada.



Lisa Jackson hits the books.

Installing New Board Members



(L-r) Joshua Gajdos, Darla Buden and incoming president Joel Haberstock. Rev. Wally Hambrock attended virtually.

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LLL Canada's mission is to assist in the proclamation of the Gospel by creating, distributing and promoting resources through various media and equipping Christians for outreach.

Board of Directors: President, Joel Haberstock, Coldstream, AB; Directors: Marilyn Jacobi, Kitchener, ON; Rev. Wally Hambrock, St. Albert, AB; Stephen Braaten, Regina, SK; Joshua Gajdos, London, ON; Darla Buden, Waterloo, ON.

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