

MEDIA *in mission*



Partnering with YOU in HIS mission! NEWS from Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada and Lutheran Hour Ministries.



The beginning of this year helped shape our goals and increase our focus on families, children, and intergenerational relationships.

Never Too Young To Serve The Lord

Each new year provides an opportunity for us to see firsthand the exciting things that the **Lutheran Laymen's League in Nicaragua** is doing in their communities and how they are supporting the Pastors and Deaconesses of the more than 30 Lutheran congregations in that country. The team in Nicaragua is called **Cristo para todos las naciones** (CPTLN) which means *Christ for all Nations*. Once again, CPTLN partnered with Lutheran Church - Canada's Team Zion, visiting 5 of the 7 communities where Vacation Bible School was being held throughout the León and Chinandega regions. The theme of the week was "You are never too young to serve the Lord" and CPTLN Project Leader Claren had the children captivated with her joy and enthusiasm for sharing the Gospel. The staff and volunteers of CPTLN are a beautiful example of service for Jesus' sake. CPTLN has been working with Team Zion for almost 10 years and have helped build a strong relationship between this Layperson led organization and the church workers of the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua.



Still a Family Tradition!

Early in the new year and with the help of a **matching grant** we launched a campaign to help increase financial support of radio broadcasts of The Lutheran Hour across Canada. **The Lutheran Hour** is the longest running Christian radio broadcast in the world, and it takes lots of hours and many hands to produce, place and program it for terrestrial radio. Many of our listeners tell us that they began listening to the Lutheran Hour because their parent or grandparent passed on the tradition of listening and sponsoring the broadcast on their local station. Thanks to a supportive response we were able to double the granted amount and start the year on a positive slope.





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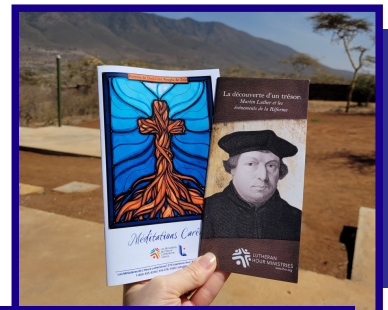


Find Us!

270 Lawrence Ave
Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y4

LLL Around the Globe

Over the last few years, Community Engagement Officer, Aleta Abraham has been making the LLL website more user friendly and increasing our social media reach with her creative use of the latest trends and tools. Shortly after Lisa returned from visiting with our partners in Nicaragua and the **LCC mission in Costa Rica**, Aleta flew across the ocean to share her skills and talents with **Lutherans in Africa** while her husband, Pastor Dan Abraham was teaching at the Lutheran School of Theology. Aleta did some design work for the school, creating plans for an altar to compliment the new sanctuary and provided drawings for new storage solutions while also serving the staff and onsite missionaries in their day-to-day tasks. While on that continent, Aleta also had the opportunity to visit the Lutheran Hour Ministries team in Kenya and took them our **French translation** of the LHM Lenten devotionals and some French booklets from our LLL-Canada office.



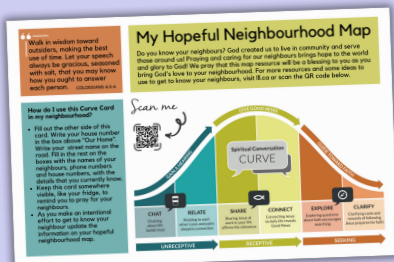
Lutheran Hour Staff and Volunteers



What a blessing and a privilege it was to experience what God is doing across the globe! I was grateful to be able to tag along with my husband Dan as he prepared student pastors to teach the Lutheran faith at LST. There is a spiritual hunger in Africa and the need is great for solid theological teachers and pastors. We enjoyed getting to know the students and staff as we did "life together", meals, worship, devotions, chores, etc. The French speaking students from Burundi were especially thankful for the LLL/LHM French language materials that I brought along. On our last day in Kenya we spent some time visiting with our LHM team in Nairobi. It was a wonderful time with our LHM ministry partners, learning about their specific ministry programs and bonding over the challenges and blessings of sharing the Gospel in our respective cultures.



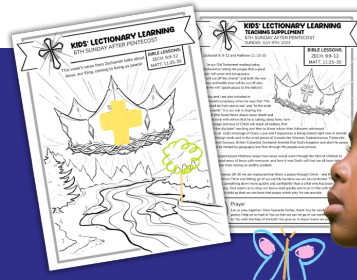
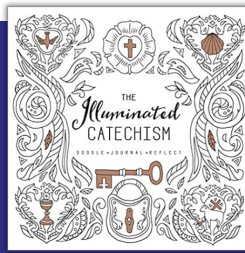
* Group shot of one of our webinars, our neighbourhood map and some of our colouring contest entries



Following a very fruitful board meeting in April, the LLL-C board and staff worked together to design **The Hopeful Neighbourhood Map** and got working on the **Summer of Hope** project. Incorporating resources from the Lutheran Hour Ministries' *Spiritual Conversation Curve* and *Hopeful Neighborhood* programs (and adding some purely Canadian flavour) we offered three interactive learning sessions. There was an open invitation for anyone to join us online, whether they could take part in just one or all three sessions and we were excited to connect with people from all across Canada. Together, we encouraged one another through the sharing of ideas as we talked about how we can pray, care, and engage our neighbours in intentional conversations that could lead to faith sharing.



Engaging the Young and the Young at Heart



The question we are asked most often is “**What are you doing to engage the young people?**” and one way we keep this a priority is to always ask ourselves how we can incorporate a youth component into each project and product we work on. For example, part of our **Summer of Hope** project included a children’s colouring contest that welcomed submissions from as far away as England!

The **Kid’s Lectionary Learning** has continued to spread and is being used across Canada and in several congregations in the U.S. as well. We are told that children are using the activity pages to connect with the readings spoken in Worship Services, while the accompanying Teaching Supplement is providing support for Sunday Schools, parents and grandparents and even plays a role in adult study at some churches.

We are so grateful for this opportunity to connect with Pastors, Teachers, Lay leaders, parents and grandparents as it provides us with another avenue for dialogue and understanding the needs of those whom we serve.

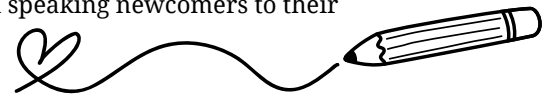


It was encouraging and exciting to hear about how Christians are **engaging with their communities** and finding ways to introduce conversations about faith with people they live with, work with, or spend recreational time with. The Holy Spirit is working in people in ways we could not have imagined, and we are humbled by their quiet, bold, and beautiful ways.



* pictures from LLL’s “We Love Our Neighbourhood” day.

We continue to send out **The Illuminated Catechism** as a gift for newly confirmed students while some churches choose to use it as a companion study tool during Confirmation classes. The French version of **The Illuminated Catechism**, which is only available through us at LLL Canada, is reaching French speaking Christians all around the globe. As many French speakers emigrate from their birth countries, they are making their way into churches, looking for hope and connection in different parts of the world, and *The Illuminated Catechism is proving to be an approachable way to introduce them to the Lutheran faith.* We aren’t the only ones experiencing this kind of opportunity as we recently had an inquiry for our resources from a church in Australia that has also been experiencing an influx of French speaking newcomers to their community.



In May we were able to view the beautiful cherry blossoms of Vancouver while visiting with Young Adults from the lower mainland. Led by church worker Samantha Neeb, twenty- four people attended the retreat with sessions that reflected on the theme of “**Walking in the Light**” based on Ephesians 5:8.

Lisa presented at the retreat on the LHM materials from “**Discover Your Gifts.**” The materials were then used on Sunday morning, before the worship service, when attendees broke into small groups based on their top gifts as identified by the EveryGift™ Inventory to spend time in conversation with others about how their gifts could be used at work, school, church, and in their communities.



Over the July long weekend we saw another part of God’s beautiful creation when Lisa drove down the Okanagan valley to Grand Forks BC for the highly anticipated and first ever **IMPACT youth gathering.** There were youth in attendance from four provinces (including a fellow *Ontarian*) who were there to learn about how God has made an incredible impact in their lives. The theme paired well with our Hopeful Neighbourhood and Gifted for More resources as they reflected on how they too can impact their congregations, families, friend groups, and communities around them.

We are filled with hope about what #youngoldlutherans can do to serve their local church and the mission fields in Canada and throughout the world.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Multilingual Lutheran Resources

We have been translating **Lutheran Hour Ministries resources** into **French** and **Chinese** for a few decades already and that has prepared us for the changing faces in the pews of churches across Canada. While statistics Canada says that the number of people who self-identify as Christians is dropping, we are hearing stories every week from churches across Canada where people are coming in off the street, looking for a conservative Christian view, and making our Lutheran churches their home. *We've had requests for resources in languages we have never heard before and some familiar ones too.* As we were preparing the Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent Devotions and our LLL Canada Mid-week family devotional for distribution in Canada we were asked by a team that was heading to Bolivia on a returning mission trip for **Spanish** materials. Normally we leave the Spanish work to our neighbours South of the border, but the team wasn't finding the right combination of content for a Pastor who was introducing the men in his community to devotional leadership in their families. So, with the help of some friends in Costa Rica we shifted priorities and got to work preparing and translating our Advent Family devotional to Spanish just in time for it to be taken to Bolivia. This allowed us another opportunity to support the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua and our CPTLN partners. Pastor Joel Kuhl and Pastor Brian Dunlop were heading to Nicaragua in early November to teach at the mission center, and they took along the newly produced devotional to distribute to the Pastors, Deaconesses and staff at the mission center as well as the CPTLN team, providing them with a resource for their own devotional life.

Thank you for the support and encouragement you provide to us with your gifts and prayers!

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.

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Media in Mission is published by *Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada*, provider of *Lutheran Hour Ministries resources*.

In November we held our **Annual General Meeting** at St. James Lutheran Church in Winnipeg MB. We also had a great turnout online and welcomed two newly elected board members: Rev. John Makey of Port Colborne On, and Brenda Reimer of Leduc AB. At the same time, we also had to say goodbye to Joel Haberstock of Vernon BC who had completed the maximum two terms, most recently as Board President. Stephen Braaten of Regina Saskatchewan moved into the role of President by acclamation. We are **blessed** with a diverse board of directors who guide us in careful stewardship while encouraging brave and bold actions as we work toward our vision of a Canada filled with Christians who are fully equipped to share the hope they have in Jesus. ***Together with the board we are gearing up for a busy new year, with plans that will open doors for young individuals to explore how they can serve, learn about the different ways churches are reaching out in their communities, and share the Gospel!*** We are excited to work with you and provide mentoring opportunities that will support the next generation of missional leaders to serve the church both in Canada and internationally.

