



# EDIA *in* Mission

## Happy Anniversary LLL

2017 will be a year for celebrating the many blessings God has showed on the Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) and its efforts to assist the church in word and deed. Formed in 1917 at the time of great financial difficulty in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, the Int'l Lutheran Laymen's League was formed to eliminate the Synod's debt. After that challenge was met, it went on to assist in other ways before becoming a partner in a new radio



outreach program The Lutheran Hour which began in 1930. Over the years, using radio, print, television and now digital media the LLL has sought to Bring Christ To the Nations and the Nations To The Church.

While Canadians had been involved in the work of the LLL since its beginning, in 1967 it was decided to incorporate the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada which will celebrate its 50th anniversary on April 6, 2017.

## Advent Devotions and Christmas Resources

Christmas Memories is the theme of the Lutheran Hour Ministries' daily devotion series for Advent 2016. Read them in English, French or Chinese or listen to them (English only) at [www.lll.ca/christmas](http://www.lll.ca/christmas) where you will also find information about *The Christmas Journey* and *What is Christmas?*. These booklets for young



children and adults are two more of our Christmas resources which also include the DVD Bible studies *Joseph: Carpenter of*

*Steel* and *The Real St. Nick*. We also offer DVD copies of our TV specials: *The Little Shepherd*; *Red Boots for Christmas*; and several of our classics. In the New Year watch for Lenten and Easter resources at [www.lll.ca/easter](http://www.lll.ca/easter).

## Encouraging seminary students

Pastors are an integral part of the church that the Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) wishes to assist. It therefore seems fitting to show our encouragement for those men who are preparing to serve in this way.

In November representatives of LLL-Canada visited Concordia Lutheran

Seminary (Edmonton) and Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary (St. Catharines) to share information about our Lutheran Hour Ministries and to present the students with books as tokens of our appreciation for and encouragement of their preparation for service in the Holy ministry.



Needing to do a bit of catch up at CLS in Edmonton. Gordon Schoepp, President of the ABC District LLL (left) and Stephen Klinck, Managing Director LLL Canada (right) presented books to seminarians (l. to r.): Alex Timm; Christopher McLean; Adam Chandler; Travis Heide; Mark Rekken; Lief Mauricio; Peter Knelson; Michael Mayer; Joshua Kurtenbach; and Ken Stadnick. Unable to attend were: Benjamin Wandio; and Will Rose. A similar presentation was made to first year students: Isaac Paik; Joshua Langill; Joshua Radke; David Zakel; Daniel Fawcett; and Charles Okongo at CLTS in St. Catharines, Ontario.

## A Canadian source for LHM resources

Whether it is a Lutheran Hour Ministries booklet, DVD Bible study, or the copy of a message heard on The Lutheran Hour, Canadian residents can order those items directly from the LLL-Canada office in Kitchener, Ontario. Call us at 1-800-555-6236 or e-mail [info@lll.ca](mailto:info@lll.ca).

## Great is thy faithfulness

By Ian Adnams

Every year is punctuated with special Holy Days and feasts, birthdays, anniversaries and other remembrances. Over the centuries landmark anniversaries have emerged. We often pay special attention to 25, 50, 60, and 100 years with names like silver, golden, and diamond celebrations. For Lutherans the forthcoming year, 2017, marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, 100 years of the Lutheran Laymen's League, 50 years of Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada and for Canadians, it's the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation. Lots of reasons to celebrate!

We read in Psalm 77:11-12 "I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds." That's one of the functions of anniversaries – remembering and seeing God's hand at work and

giving thanks for both the challenges through which He has brought us and blessings he has given us.

But it's dangerous to stay in that state of mind. Reflecting on the past helps us see where we've been, what lessons we've learned. The danger lies in reveling in the memories and longing for the "good old days." The Israelites were guilty of this attitude as they struggled through the desert. They yearned for the life they had in Egypt (as slaves!) rather than trusting in God to provide for their needs in the current circumstances.

Many of our congregations look back 50 years and remember



growing families, active youth groups and filled pews. What we fail to realize is the Baby Boom was an

anomaly, a unique time in North American history that impacted every part of society including the church. Those "good old days" are long gone and the reality is almost 1/3 of Canadians no longer identify with any religion and the number of Lutherans in Canada is declining.

So what do we do?

The witness of the Church is not in its buildings or programs. The Church is the Body of Christ made up of many members as St. Paul reminds us

in 1 Corinthians 12— individuals shining the light of God's love as we live our daily lives. We gather for worship to receive His gifts that strengthen our faith adding the fuel that keeps us burning as "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

As we celebrate the various anniversaries in 2017 let's see them as opportunities to show to family and friends God's love in Jesus Christ through acts of service, in our words and as we worship together, remembering where we've been but looking forward to where the Holy Spirit is leading us!

*Ian Adnams is the voluntary president of the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada*



### Amigos en Cristo – Nicaragua

Through Amigos en Cristo (Friends in Christ) we partner with our co-workers at Lutheran Hour Ministries – Nicaragua to share the Gospel with people of that country. One of the programs used is JOEL (Youth With Free Spirit) which helps youth and teenagers understand how to make good choices – those based on the Christian faith – in their lives. Work is often done in cooperation with schools and police who see the positive influence these programs have on the youth. Your support helps to make this outreach possible.

**Media in Mission** is a publication of the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada and its Lutheran Hour Ministries.

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

LLL Canada Board of Directors: President, Ian Adnams, Richmond, BC; Directors Ronald Fischer, Stratford, ON; Jim Lang, Vienna, ON; Ed Tiefenbach, Regina, SK; and Calvin Ulmer, Neudorf, SK.

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## News from beyond the pews

While the resources from Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) are very useful when used in the congregation they also meet the needs of people in our communities and families.

Here is how several groups of have used LHM materials to reach beyond the pews of their own LCC congregations.

When people began to move back to fire-ravaged Fort McMurray, Alberta, local Lutherans had been provided with a quantity of two LHM booklets *Why Do Bad Things Happen?* and *Where is God In All of This?* The booklets were provided by members of the Klondike Zone LLL and the Lutheran Laymen's

League of Canada. The booklets were offered for free distribution in consultation with the ABC District of Lutheran Church–Canada.

Regina-area, LCC congregations again joined forces to make a Christian witness to the more than 200,000 people who attended the Queen City Exhibition. They offered LHM booklets for both adults and children on a wide variety of topics as well as Bibles. The children's booklets: *The Bully*; *Learning to Pray*; and *Do You Know Who Jesus Is?* were very popular while adults showed the most interest in booklets on angels, forgiveness, grief, and death.

The annual

International Plowing Match, held near Clifford, Ontario provided an opportunity for area LCC congregations to set up a display in the tent of the Minto Chamber of Commerce where they offered a variety of booklets and provided information about the LCC congregations in the area to the estimated 100,000 attendees.

A yearly outreach for Simcoe area congregations and members of the LLL is to have an outreach booth at the Simcoe County Fair. This year was no exception and a wide variety of LHM booklets



Don & Sylvia Jesse volunteered at the Regina outreach booth.

was offered to the fair-goers.

Does your community have a festival, fair where your congregation or a group of congregations could have an impact on or make a connection with a group of people who are currently "beyond the pews" of your church? If so, consider LHM materials as tools for outreach.

## 500th Anniversary in 2017 Reformation Resources

With 2017 being the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, secular sources may be telling the public a lot about the changes that event caused in society (politics, educations etc.) but it will likely be up to the members of the Church to remind them that the root issue was a spiritual one. Anticipating opportunities to share with our friends and neighbours, organizations like Lutheran Hour Ministries have developed resources to help prepare Christians to celebrate

and share information about the Reformation while staying focused on the Gospel, which was the heart of Dr. Martin Luther's efforts.

*A Treasure Revealed* describes how God used the German church-reformer Martin Luther to declare unequivocally to the church and the world that it is by grace – and grace alone – that we are saved. This 24-page booklet is available in English, French and Spanish or it can be read on-line in pdf format.

A three-part video

based Bible study *A Man Named Martin* utilizes a cast of scholars and professional church workers who share their expertise on the cultural and religious milieu in which Luther lived, and in which the Reformation began. In part 1 – *The Man* we learn about the 15th century monk whose Spirit-inspired grasp of God's justification of sinners through faith in the Saviour, Jesus Christ, caused him to break ranks with the Catholic Church and led to the Protestant Reformation.

Part 2 - *The Moment* shows Luther's inner struggles of conscience and faith and the erroneous practices and semi-scriptural and oft-time unethical teachings of the late Medieval Church. Viewers are shown the interplay of personalities, practices and other events that led to the Reformation. Part 3, *The Movement* (to be released in 2017) will look at changes to the very fabric of Western civilization that were sparked by the Reformation.

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## Express thanks in area congregations

### Directors meet in Edmonton

Since the purposes of the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada include assisting the church in word and deed, members of the Board of Directors visited a number of Edmonton area congregations on Sunday November 20 to share news about Lutheran Hour Ministries resources and to thank those who support our Gospel outreach efforts with their prayers and financial gifts.

The Directors held their fall board meeting and the corporation's annual general meeting in Edmonton this year. Newly-elected Jim Lang of Vienna, Ontario and



Rev. Ron Mohr, Pastoral Advisor for the LLL Canada Board (left), installed recently elected Directors Jim Lang and Ed Tiefenbach during the annual meeting while President, Ian Adnams (right) looks on.

re-elected Ed Tiefenbach of Regina, Saskatchewan were installed as directors. Thanks were expressed for the service of Keith Bohlken of Condor, Alberta who completed his term as a Director.

Bethel Lutheran Church

hosted the meetings. Those attending the AGM heard President, Ian Adnams explain the strategic planning the Board has done to guide the organization. Managing Director, Stephen Klinck then gave an update on our

efforts to assist in Gospel proclamation by creating, distributing and promoting various media while also equipping Christians for outreach.

Income of \$718,043 and expenses of \$729,488 were reported in the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2016, showing that once again God has provided for the financial needs of the organization through the individuals and groups that supported it in the current and previous years. A copy of the statements may be requested from the LLL Canada.

### New booklets on Grief, Unbearable Sorrow and Hope and Healing

Providing people with comfort and hope from a Christian perspective when dealing with grief; the suicide of a loved one; or the diagnosis of breast cancer; is the purpose of the newest booklets in the Project Connect



series from Lutheran Hour Ministries.

*Grief – Where Sadness and Hope Meet; The Unbearable Sorrow –*

*When Suicide Hits Home; and Hope and Healing – Surviving Breast Cancer* are each available as printed booklets or you

can read them on-line as pdfs. To request one booklet or to purchase a quantity for distribution by your group or congregation, contact the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada office in Kitchener, Ontario. To access the booklets on-line follow the links on our webpage [www.lll.ca](http://www.lll.ca).

*Reformation, from prev. page*

These videos are divided into short segments, making them suitable for group study. Included is a discussion guide containing numerous internet links,

and helpful questions to help participants come to a better understanding of this critical period in the life of Christ's church on earth.

Check out these items on-line at [www.lll.ca/reformation](http://www.lll.ca/reformation) or purchase

booklets or DVD and discussion guide sets from the Lutheran Hour Ministries – Canada (Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada) office in Kitchener, Ontario [1-800-555-6236].



God Connects is a course that explains the Christian faith, using today's technology and language. It presents God's work of salvation through Christ, the tenets of the Christian faith, and various practical faith aspects of living a believer's life in terms that are in-depth yet accessible. The 12 brief videos, a discussion guide, web links, and relevant scripture references are suitable for individual or class use. View it online at [www.lhm.org/godconnects](http://www.lhm.org/godconnects) or purchase a DVD copy from Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada.