

THE COMMUNICATOR

Graduation DEVOTIONS

BY ED BOELENS

It is my honour to welcome everyone here tonight to join us. It is good to be together, and tonight we don't underestimate that comment. It is good to see parents and staff here (and maybe many others watching at a later date) to witness and support these graduates.

Grade 8 students, this is your graduation. Some of you have been at LCS for as many as ten years and some for as little as about 1 month in the building. None-the-less, tonight is about you as the class of 2020! This is it - you made it. I am glad to see you all dressed up. You look awesome! You look like the young adults, the mature graduates that you have grown to be. Well done.

Now don't get me wrong, before we gloat over how good you all are, you haven't looked or acted like this every day at school. Replace the suit and the dress with some tattered jeans, replace the dress shoes with some muddy runners, rough up your neatly combed or brushed hair, and

the scene is different. Getting to this point has had its difficult times. There have been misbehaviours, lunch detentions, missed homework, poor tests, and maybe a few tears. I am sure you can tell stories that even we don't know about. A lot of prayer has gone into you to get you here tonight. And that is what we celebrate: hard work, determination, answers to prayer, and "POOF" we have beautiful and handsome graduates!

You have chosen your class verse from Proverbs 16:3 where it says, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans". Graduates of 2020, there is great potential in you. God is looking down here and he sees all these gifted students. This year we have seen some of you with the gift of athleticism, the gift of academics, the gift of encouragement, the gift of offering friendship, the gift of creativity, the gift of happiness, the gift of listening, the gift of hard work and endurance, the gift of service, the gift of spirituality. And I am sure there are more. Through your years at LCS, we trust that we have provided you opportunities to mature in these gifts, to grow and to be confident in how God has blessed you. But he doesn't want you to go alone. In fact, he wants to lead you. Commit whatever you do to the Lord and use your gifts to serve his purposes which he has established.

Now you ask, "What if I don't know what his plans are for me?" Don't worry, many of us are not always clear on that either. We keep asking, we keep praying, we keep staying close and committing daily to God. Then, when we look back, we realize that God had it all planned out anyway. He asks the same for you too. He doesn't say, "Commit to me and we will establish your plans". He doesn't say, "Commit to me and I will help you establish your plans". No, God establishes the plans, we follow. Sometimes that is pretty scary, but sometimes it is a relief to know that God takes care of all the details. God is hoping you follow him so then he will have great pleasure in allowing you to prosper, allowing you to be happy, and to be used to live as lights in a world that needs you.

"This is a day that the Lord has made. Let us be glad and rejoice in it". God has made today unlike any other day in history (when do you think there will be another graduation in July?) and God has made this class unlike any other class in history. In fact, God has made each of you unlike any other person in history. Now whatever your future, which will also be unlike any other future in history, we pray that you will commit to God and you will have a future following God's plans.

Be blessed graduates, the world awaits you!



Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

This issue features the Gr. 8 graduates, with poems written by the Gr. 7 students.



LEAH *Baarda*

I have told you these things,
so that in me you may have peace.
In this world you will have trouble.
But take heart! I have overcome the world.

JOHN 16:33

During my 10 years at LCS I have made many friends, learned a lot, and made lots of good memories. I have participated in sports, battle of the books, Christmas musicals, and student leadership. LCS has been a great experience. It has taught me more about God and has helped me grow in my faith. I have really appreciated the amazing teachers who take the time to help you and how everyone is so friendly. My favourite memory at LCS is probably the Ottawa trip. In the fall I will be going to Listowel District Secondary School. I don't really know what I want to do as a career yet.

Lovely is one word to describe you but
Everfriendly is one too
And I'm sure there are many others to describe
How much we're going to miss you.

Blue is her favourite colour
And I know that books are her best entertainment
And hanging with friends is one of her ways of fun, so we'll
Run and videochat till the school years done
Don't be upset, we'll see you again
And I hope you like high school my dear friend.

by Jocelyn Desjardine



ERICA *Benjamins*

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy,
it does not boast, it is not proud. Love does not
delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts, always hopes,
always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 CORINTHIANS 13: 4, 6-8A

I have had two nicknames at LCS: Eeka and Eric. I have participated in all sports teams (except hockey), Battle of the Books, and Christmas Musicals. One of my favourite memories was when we were all in Grade 3 and we all went into the big red slide and the person at the bottom would keep us from coming out. I think that LCS is a great school because they include all ages in most of the activities. LCS helped me find out that God put me on this earth for a reason. I will be attending Woodland Christian High School in the fall.

Enthusiastic about a lot of things
Ridiculously full of Joy
Incredibly funny
Considerate to others
Animal lover and caregiver.

by Gracie Meinen

PRESENTING THE



Class of 2020

Valedictorian SPEECH

BY LEAH
BAARDA

Graduation is an exciting time. It marks both an ending and a beginning; it's warm memories of the past and big dreams for the future. (Author unknown)

Fellow graduates, teachers, family, and friends. It's hard to believe that our graduation is here! We have been waiting for this time for so long and even though the end of our time at LCS may not have looked how we always thought it would, we are still excited to be able to be graduating and moving on to new things. Tonight, we celebrate both an ending and a beginning.

Tonight marks the ending of our student life at LCS and when we first started our journey here, we had no idea what we were in for. We didn't know that the people we started kindergarten with on that first day of school would become our friends for the next 10 years. We couldn't even count to 10 much less imagine 10 years! We went from learning the alphabet and how to count, how to tie our shoes and zip up our zippers, how to share and work together, to learning harder things like colouring in the lines, cursive writing, math and science.

We learned many important lessons, but we also made each other laugh and we had a lot of fun, like when we had pen pals from Mexico in grade 4 and in grade 5/6 when Mr. K. was always telling us jokes and funny stories even when they were the same ones over and over again. We will remember all of the fun times we had together at LCS; sports tournaments, different clubs, track and field, and field trips, like the ski trip and especially the Ottawa trip. We also probably hold the school record for the most students joining and leaving our class—but I will leave that for the historians. When I look at our JK picture and notice how small we were compared to us all dressed up tonight and looking so grown up, I can tell that we've grown so much since JK. I don't just mean physically but also academically and socially as a class.

We have been through good times together and learned together, but we have also had hard times. The last few months have been the hardest because we had to be apart from each other and didn't get to spend our last few months at LCS together. We have been so blessed throughout the past 10 years of our lives to go to a school where we can learn about God every day and learn how to have a relationship with him. We have

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CIARA *Bosman*

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

PSALM 23:4

Throughout the years at LCS, I have mainly been called Ciara. But in the past year some people have called me "Sara." I have been involved in different things including, volleyball, basketball, musicals, and more. My favourite memory at LCS, has been getting to know everyone. I've really appreciated that LCS encouraged me to grow in my faith, and provided me with a Christian environment. Being in a place with other believers has helped me grow spiritually. This September I will be attending Listowel District Secondary School. When I am older I want to travel and to share the Good News.

She loves horses and being with nature
She likes going outside on adventures
She likes to bake and cook
And to editing videos she took
She loves God and trusts him with her future

by Hayley VanderWier



GREGORY *Dowling*

For all have sinned and fall short
of the glory of God.

ROMANS 3:23

LCS has helped me grow more spiritually and helped me move closer to God. This school had a big impact on me. Before I went to this school, I was in a public school being picked on and being led the wrong way in life but this school helped me turn around. The thing I probably liked the most about LCS would definitely be how it's a small school and everyone knows everyone, and we do big group activities like team events. I have participated in a lot of school activities like all the sport teams. My favourite memory would have to be the sport tournaments just because you get to meet a lot of new people and my other favourite thing would have to be when Nathan and I flipped the blue swing. Next year I will be attending Listowel District Secondary School and in the future I hope to get into farming.

Gregarious
Really rad
Everyone's friend
Good, giving and grateful
Outrageously awesome
Relentlessly respectful
You are a great baseball player!

by Levi Struyk and Trenton Coleman

been surrounded by great people who taught us how important it is to live as an example of Christ to those around us. We are leaving our school with new knowledge and memories that we will take with us to high school where we will learn more and make new memories.

Tonight also marks a beginning and now here we are preparing to go in separate directions. We have been through so much together at this school and made so many good memories, and all of that has prepared us for what is to come. But now it is time to move forward. We are looking forward to the future including the new friendships and experiences that will come in high school and whatever we choose to do after high school. We are excited for what is to come because we know LCS has prepared us well.

The verse our class chose this year is Proverbs 16:3 "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." As we move on to new things in our lives, we need to remember to commit our lives and our dreams for the future to God and he will guide our plans. As we all go in different directions, remember that God has a plan for your life, and it is important to trust him even if what he's doing doesn't make sense to us at the time.

I want to say thank you to all our parents who decided to send us to LCS not just to learn academically, but also to learn about God and what it means to have a relationship with him. Thank you for helping us with our

homework and being part of other school activities. You have especially been a big help in these last few months for helping us figure out our homework and how to do school at home.

Thank you to the many teachers we have had at LCS. We wouldn't be here right now without you. You put up with us when no one would be quiet or pay attention and were patient with us when we handed work in late because it was lost in our messy cubbies, or when our class discussions got way off topic. I'm sure that wasn't always easy. Every day you came ready to teach us even when we weren't ready to learn. Thank you for finding a new way to teach us in an interesting and encouraging way when we couldn't all be together at school because of Covid-19. While maybe it didn't always seem like it, we are really grateful for all of the time that you took to help us learn and grow in our faith.

And thank you to all my classmates for the good memories and friendships over the past 10 years. I have enjoyed getting to know you and working with you and I hope you can look back over our years here together with good memories.

Erica, Ciara, Gregory, Craig, Lina, Boe, Nathaniel, Gracie, Nathan, and Tyson, today we are celebrating an ending by leaving LCS, but also a beginning as we take all of the knowledge we have received at LCS and take it with us when we begin high school. As we move forward in life, remember to commit your life to God and remember that he will establish your plans. Graduates, keep learning, keep accomplishing, and keep discovering what God has in store for your future!





CRAIG *Eisen*

Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.

PSALM 27:14

During my 10 years in grade school, LCS has been my favourite, although I did only go to one. I have really appreciated LCS because I feel safe there, and because there are so many friends and opportunities. I loved playing on all the sports teams, and have also been involved in the Christmas play every year. My nicknames were Craiger, and Craigel bagel. LCS has also helped me to grow spiritually by encouraging me to trust God and know he's always with me. Out of all of my years at LCS one of my favourite memories would be last year in music class when I threw a big fuzzy pink dice and broke the metronome. This fall I will be going to Woodland Christian High School. Thank you LCS.

Can always cheer us up
Really funny and always makes people smile and laugh
Always kind and encouraging
Intelligent in all subjects
Great friend to have and be around

by Kenzie Siebenga



BOE *Kikkert*

Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid or terrified because of them,
for the Lord your God goes with you;
he will never leave you nor forsake you.

DEUTERONOMY 31:6

During my 10 years in LCS I never got a nickname which is surprising to me but I'm glad. I have been a part of many sports teams such as volleyball, baseball, soccer, basketball, hockey and district field day. My favourite memory was my first year at district, it was great to see and compete against everyone. I appreciate all the teachers who taught me how to be the best Christian I can be and how to treat others. They taught me that God is always there and that I will always have a place in the world. In the fall I will be attending Woodland Christian High School.

There is something I know,
Something about Boe,
Today he will graduate
And it will be great!
Then he will go and start a new school,
A school called Woodland, and it's pretty cool!

by Seth VanderKlippe

Historian SPEECH

BY CRAIG ELISEN
& GRACIE SIEBENGA

Gracie: Our LCS Journey was filled with so many memories: we learned, laughed and we were shaped into the people we are today. We would like to share some of our memories of LCS with you.

Craig: It all started in JK. In our class was Erica Benjamins, Ciara Bosman, Tyson Van Donkersgoed, Samuel Barnhoorn, Leah Baarda, Taylor Drenth, Gracie Siebenga, Nathan Thalen, Samuel Angst, Ellie Pellashock and myself, Craig Elisen. Our teacher was Mrs. Hieda. Since this was our first year of school, we were overwhelmed with the books, toys, names and colours. We were nervous but we quickly got comfortable with the classroom and made friends. Our favourite part was probably recess where we would run around, go down the slide, and catch the big kids that would be on yard duty. For our field trip we went to the fire department, police station, and to the park for pizza.

G: The next year we started SK. Mrs. Hieda was our teacher again. We welcomed Kyen Damen, Boe Kikkert, Lina Kikkert and Cameron VanderWall to our class, but Samuel Barnhoorn left. He was the first of many to leave our class. In SK we learned the alphabet and we sang it many times. We always enjoyed show and tell and playtime. During playtime the girls would fight over the dress up and the boys would play in the sandbox, with the race cars or the big crane, but they would always race to get the big blue truck. At recess our whole grade would play noodle tag. That year for our field trip we went to African Lion Safari

C: Grade 1 was a big year for us. It was our first time going to school every day, and it was the first year that we could go on the big kid playground. Grade 1 did

have its cons, there was no play time or naptime, but we learned a lot. Nathan Vanderploeg joined our class that year but left at the end of the year. We learned how to read and write, yes it was very hard. This year was also the first year that we had another class with us; it was a 1/2 split class. This year we did a really fun project where we picked a stuffed animal and we sent it around the world. Our teacher was Mrs. O'Boyle or, as we called her, Ms. McDonnell.

G: In Grade 2, we were the first class to have Ms. Van Rooyen. That year the cycle of the rotating door continued as Ellie Peleshock left our class, but we welcomed Kevin Tadros. For our field trip we went to Ripley's Aquarium.

C: As another year went by, we started grade 3. We welcomed Gregory Dowling to our class. We went to Legoland for our field trip. This year we did lots of fun things at recess like grounders, soccer, and tag. We were also excited when Samuel Barnhoorn came back.

C: Grade 4. This year there were lots of excited faces when we walked in as we knew this was the year that we could finally try out for the sports teams. We tried out but we would never make it. This year we welcomed our littlest friend, Hunter Cummings but unfortunately, he left at the end of the year. I'm not sure if we smelled bad or what. I swear we were nice kids but Taylor, Kevin and Cameron also all left our class that year. This year was very hard though as we had to have towels over our hands for typing. Grade 4 was the first year we got to go on the big kid side, but we quickly found out that it wasn't as fun as on the playground. This was the year that, when it was recess, the boys would always be in a huddle trading hockey cards and the girls would be skipping. This was also the year that Mrs. Delleman ripped her pants. We went to Camp Kintail for our field trip.

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LINA *Kikkert*

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

PSALM 139:7

My nickname for this year was Liner. This year, I tried to play for the soccer team. It was quite tiring. I also did basketball because my friends kind of forced me to. But, we never got to do the basketball tournament. One of my favourite memories from LCS was when we did the water walk and we were all hanging out with each other and talking. It was pretty fun. The thing I really appreciate about LCS is that it is a very kind school and has no bullies. LCS has taught me spiritually how to love one another and grow to be with God. The highschool I will be attending this fall will be FE Madill. A career choice has not been decided yet, but I might be a vet or a MNR. LCS has been a great place and I will miss it greatly when I leave.

Here comes the end of the year.
High school is very near.

But be brave,
Make sure to wave,
You're nice and you're smart
And most of all, you are really good at art.

The amount of friends you will make won't be few,
Now let's just hope high school is ready for you.

by Natalie Greydanus



NATHANIEL *Merwin*

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

My time here at Listowel Christian School has been very short. I came to LCS from Thunder Bay and began school in February. I have had the chance to meet my classmates and my teachers and get to know them a bit before the coronavirus kept us at home. I really appreciate the time our teachers have taken to help us do our lessons so that we can finish Grade 8 and graduate. In the fall I hope to attend Emmanuel Christian High School in Fergus, Ontario.

Never gives up
Always tries his best
True to everyone
Happy all the time
A guy with no problems making friends
Never hurts people's feelings
Important to his friends
Encourages friends whenever possible
Listens to everyone

by Scott Weber and Luke Bootsma

HISTORIAN SPEECH CONTINUED

G: Grade 5 was the first year we were split up. Craig, Gregory, Erica and Lina were in Mrs. Delleman's class and me, Boe, Ciara, Leah, Samuel, Nato and Tyson went to Mr. Katerberg's class.

C: For the four of us who were in Mrs. Delleman's class, we hung out in our own group and never needed to find a partner. At recess we reunited with the rest of our grade.

G: Grade 5 in Mr. K's class was fun. We got to help with chocolate milk and when we did typing we didn't have to have towels covering our hands so that's a plus, and we always appreciated when Mr. K would stop class and tell us one of his "funny" stories. This was the first year that we actually made some of the sports teams, since we were the youngest ones on the team we normally didn't play much but at least we got to miss school. That year we went all together to Camp Menesetung.

G: In Grade 6 we were all back together again in Mr. K's class. This year we heard talk about a new school which was very exciting. We welcomed Erin Kim to our class. She is a missionary and sadly the streak continues and Erin left at the end of that year. On water day that year it was very rainy and at the bottom of the hill there was a river. The teachers thought the water was gross but all of us still raced and swam. For our field trip we went tree top trekking. It was so much fun! It was definitely a field trip we will always remember.

C: In Grade 7 we had Mr. Boelens, Mrs. VanKampen, Mrs. Wright and Ms. ten Brink as our teachers. This was a very exciting year for us because it was our first year in the new school. We were also finally in the oldest class of the school. Samuel almost made it to the end but he left at the end of the year. Grade 7 was a great year. We did so many fun things. We got to participate in the

water walk, it was a fundraiser where we all had to walk on the Listowel trail carrying a bucket of water. Let's just say that by the end some of the boys had no water left and got in big trouble. Since this was the first year that we were in the new school, there was lots to be done and things to clean up. It was always a good day when Mr. Boelens would stop math class and give us a list of stuff to do. For our field trip we went skiing and snowboarding. It was super fun and for most of us it was our first time.

G: Grade 8 was definitely a very unpredictable year but at the beginning we did many fun things. We helped at pie day, sorted toys at the Salvation Army, we welcomed Nathaniel Merwin to our class, we did some sports, and we also went on our Ottawa trip. On the Ottawa trip our class had a lot of fun! We skated on the canal, we went to a lot of museums, and ate a lot of fast food.

I would like to say that the last months of school were actually in the school building. I would also like to say that those months were filled with the excitement of spending those last months with our friends, our last LCS track and field and baseball tournament, but unfortunately those months were filled with online schooling, hand sanitizer and social distancing. But now here we are, our grade 8 graduation where we say goodbye to LCS.

Even though our journey at LCS is over we will never forget the memories that have made LCS great. We have learned that, no matter where we go, God is with us. So, as we start our next part of our journey in high school, we know that we have God with us but also through LCS we have a loving and caring Christian community that will support us. LCS is filled with amazing people. Thank you to all our teachers that have put up with us through all these years.

C: Amen.





GRACIE *Siebenga*

The Lord God is with you, he is mighty to save,
he will take great delight in you, he will quiet you
with his love and rejoice over you with singing.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

For the past ten years, I have grown in my faith, made great memories and enjoyed spending time with my class. Throughout the years I have participated in many sports teams and Christmas musicals. LCS has really helped me see that God is always with us even in the hard times. My favourite memories are the ski trip and different sports tournaments. Even when we didn't win, we always had a team that liked to have fun and try their best. In the future I may want to be a paramedic or nurse. I will attend Woodland Christian High School and I can't wait to see what path God takes me on next.

Gratitude towards others
Ready for anything and everything
Amarzing athletic ability
Crazy smart and ambitious
Irresistible singing voice
Electrifying attitude

by Brooke Thalen



NATHAN *Thalen*

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

PSALM 46:1

My classmates have given me lots of nicknames, mostly variations of Nato. I've had Natopotato, Sharknato, Tornato, Nade biscuit, Nate, Noodle, and others like Mayo, and Nature boy. I have played soccer, basketball, and volleyball and was a part of the play once. My favourite memory of LCS was going on the Ottawa trip; it was a fun bus ride and it was cool seeing all of the museums and skating on the canal. I really appreciate my classmates because we all have lots of fun. LCS has taught me God is there no matter what, that I can achieve what I want to even if there are challenges, and that the world is a scary place if you don't stick with good people. I am attending Woodland Christian High School in the fall. Right now I'm not really sure what I want to be.

Nathan is tall
And he likes basketball
He can be quite hilarious,
But never nefarious.
He sticks with a friend,
Right through to the end.
His favourite colour is blue,
His motives are true.

by William Rylaarsdam and Gerrit Johnston



TYSON
Van Donkersgoed

If you love me, keep my commands.

JOHN 14:15

LCS has impacted me with activities like basketball, soccer, hockey, district track and field, mini sticks tournament, and doing sound for the school plays. My favourite memory was when one of my teachers called me Titus, my nickname. My spirituality has grown over time with the teachers incorporating faith into subjects. I appreciate LCS and I am thankful that it has prepared me both spiritually and academically for my coming years at Norwell District Secondary School. My ideal job is to be a Robotics Engineer. Thanks LCS! We made it!

Tyson, Tyson, with all your self esteem.
You have always been a part of the LCS team.
As you leave, we all hope you will succeed,
Even as life goes by at surprising speed.
We will all miss you, more than it may seem.
Now go out and achieve your dreams!

by Katherine Van Donkersgoed

COMMIT
TO THE
LORD

*whatever
you do,*
AND HE WILL
establish
YOUR PLANS.

PROVERBS 16:3





CONGRATULATIONS *grads!*



Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL