

THE COMMUNICATOR

easter REFLECTION

BY HENRY MEINEN

Too often Christians don't make a big enough deal about Easter. Christmas, on the other hand, is nearly the opposite. Christmas has special church services and concerts. It has gift-giving and get-togethers. People spend months preparing for Christmas. Again and again, others will ask, "Are you ready for Christmas?" But no one ever asks, "Are you ready for Easter?"

Perhaps you've never given that much thought, but you probably should. After all, in the grand scheme of things, which day holds the greatest significance? Sure, Christmas is important. God taking on human flesh is a very big deal. But Christmas is important primarily because of what took place roughly 33 years later at Easter. Without Easter, even Good Friday is only a story about a tragic death.

But Easter is the main event that pulls it all together, revealing their true significance.

On Easter the angels in the empty tomb spoke some of the most important words in history: "He is not here; he has risen!" (Luke 24:6) Ever since that day, Christians around the world have proclaimed that same wonderful truth on Easter morning, this one phrase echoing throughout the earth: "He is risen!"

But then, this is not something that we ought to proclaim only on Easter morning. After all, it's often said that "every Sunday is a little Easter," meaning every Sunday is a day we get to proclaim again the Good News of Easter. And every Sunday we *proclaim* this Good News so that every other day of the week we can *live* out this Good News.

Let me briefly mention two reasons why this Good News matters: hope and change.

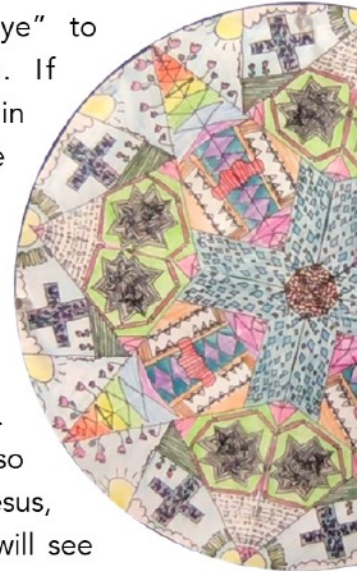
We need hope. Without hope we crumble inside and life withers away. But Easter is about hope. One of the great promises that

Easter gives us is that the grave doesn't win. Death doesn't have power over us because Jesus has defeated it. That's a very meaningful comfort when we have to say "good-bye" to loved ones. If they believe in Christ, the good news is life isn't over for them. They're going to be with Jesus. And if we also believe in Jesus, one day we will see them again.

Easter also provides us with a very powerful source of strength when life seems precarious and uncertain. Easter tells us that, come what may, there is nothing that can ever happen to us that can take away the greatest treasure we have: life forever with Christ.

We have this comfort and this strength because we have this hope. And we have this hope because of Easter. That's one reason Easter matters so much: hope.

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TAMARA



ALEX


Listowel
 CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



EASTER – A RELIABLE MILESTONE

It seems to me that we are always working toward milestones. There are some set things in life that you can count on and you look forward to reaching those goals.

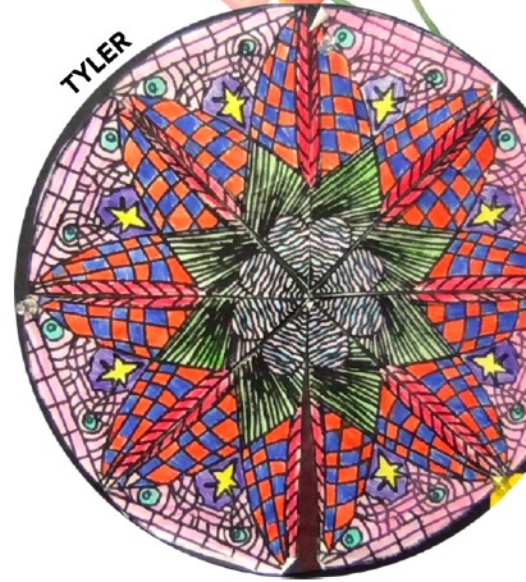
I can only imagine that for farmers you anticipate the planting season. You know it is going to come, you prepare for it, and when it arrives, you are ready. You are excited and the adrenaline rush motivates you to work through it. Then it all happens again at harvest time. I am sure that accountants have a similar approach for tax season. Churches work on their liturgical calendar with Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Ascension, and Thanksgiving. Teachers have some of the same anticipation for September, Christmas, March break, June and maybe even report card seasons. You can count on these events, you set your sights and work toward them, and they are highlights in your annual cycle.

This Spring, if not this whole year, was a little different for schools. Some things we thought were non-negotiable have been re-imagined. Our March break was moved into April – who would ever have thought about that? Despite some initial disappointment, we buckled up and carried on our teaching through March and into April. However, we noticed our absenteeism increased with the normal cold season and some tired spirits. We anticipate April 15 and our April break for a good refreshing break.

Not lost between the originally scheduled break and the

rescheduled break is Easter. Easter is a time for renewal, maybe not the physical, mental or emotional renewal we think about for our March (April) break, but a deeper renewal – a spiritual renewal. In a time when typically dependable parts of our lives become questionable, and we look for milestones we can rely on, Easter makes its reliable entry into our lives again. There to offer us hope, there to offer us covenant promises that are true every day, there to remind us of where and with whom to base our lives.

Easter remains a reliable milestone in our churches, in our schools, in our work, and in our lives. We can be renewed, refreshed, and revitalized through the death and resurrection of our Saviour. Thanks be to God!



AMY

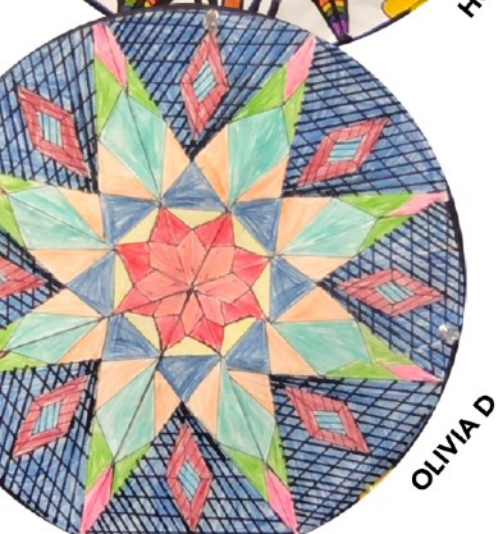
CARINA

ELI

JESSE

HAVEN





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Another reason Easter matters is because it's about change. We all long for change. We want the world to change, yes. But we also want ourselves to change. We can very easily spend too much of our life falling into the same temptations, making the same mistakes again and again. Frankly, sometimes this makes us wonder if change is even possible.

But what Easter tells us is that our new life with Christ starts now. Christ did not rise from the grave to only bring us new life later. No, new life starts now. Listen to what Paul says: "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

Christ was raised that we might live a new life. Now. Change can take place in your life. Now. Christ can give you victory over sins that have held sway over you. Your life can bear, more and more, the good fruit of the Spirit. You can be transformed into a greater reflection of Jesus. All this is possible because Christ has risen, and he's sent his Spirit to work powerfully in your life so that who you are now isn't who you will always be.

You see, Easter matters every day of our life. And yet, too often, we only celebrate it one single, solitary day of the year.

That could change this year, though. This year, we could decide that we're going to celebrate Easter as though it really is the most significant day in history. One of the

ways we could do this is by celebrating Eastertide. You see, traditionally, just as Christmas has been given a season to be celebrated, Easter has as well. Eastertide runs from Easter until Pentecost, and is a time when Christians read through the Easter stories of the Gospels, sing lots of good Easter songs, and offer up many prayers, thanking God for the Resurrection of Jesus and everything that this great event has meant for us and our world.

So, I'd like to invite you to consider how you can celebrate Easter this year. You'll be reading this after Easter, but you're still well within the season of Eastertide, which means it's still very fitting to celebrate Easter. You could read through the Easter stories in the Gospels, and talk about them with your children or grandchildren. You could talk about how their significance and how they've changed your life. You could sing good Easter songs, at home as well as church. Perhaps you could even learn a few new ones. (YouTube has many to offer.) And you could pray many prayers, giving praise and thanks to God for the victory over sin and death that He won on Easter morning.

Don't simply save these things for Easter morning. Let's celebrate Easter in the days and weeks that follow, celebrating it as though it truly is the most significant event in history... because it is.

Questions to ponder: How will you make easter meaningful this year? What can we do to help our children or grandchildren understand the significance of Easter?



BOARD REPORT

CHERYL MULDER
BOARD SECRETARY

The Board Executive typically meets the Monday before a scheduled Board meeting. This meant our most recent meeting would have fallen on the closing evening of the Spring Auction 2021! By request of executive members, who didn't want to miss the close, we moved our meeting and are we ever glad we did! What an exciting finish to be part of! The Fundraising/Auction Committee did an outstanding job organizing and facilitating this record-breaking event! Many thanks to these ladies, and their families, for the effort put into this LCS community event.

Every year the Board is responsible for evaluating the COO/Principal. Some years this is a fairly simple procedure with input from Board members and a meeting between the Principal and some of the Executive members. Every third year however, it is suggested by Edvance that an in-depth 360* *Evaluation* be conducted. This is the evaluation that will be undertaken this year and will require the thoughtful

contribution of all parents, staff, members and board. If you identify with one of these groups you may expect to receive a questionnaire by email in the near future. We ask that you give honest and fair feedback to the best of your ability, making this process a productive one.

Board members listened to a presentation by Liz tenBrink in regard to a new Student Support Services Policy. This policy formally outlines many of the procedures already in place which guide LCS in being an inclusive school that values and encourages students to develop their gifts and abilities to better love and serve God and the community. It will be before the Board at their next meeting for approval.

Over the course of several meetings board members took the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the LCS Constitution. This was a good review for experienced board members and a valuable, in-depth look at this document for newer board members.

The Contract Partnership Committee held their annual meetings and made salary recommendations to the Board. All salary recommendations are based upon well-researched work completed and published by Edvance-Vocate.

Board members Andrea Bootsma and Cheryl Mulder will be completing their terms this spring. The board carefully considered nominations for the upcoming term and will present the names of those who have accepted a nomination at the Spring Membership meeting. The nomination process was especially important this year as two Executive members are finishing their terms. These positions of leadership within the Board need to be filled by those with the gifts to do so.

The Board recognizes that this has been another challenging year for staff as they have transitioned from in-person teaching to online classes and back again. As a small show of appreciation and support for staff, board members recently brought in a hot lunch and delicious dessert items for staff to enjoy.

We look forward to the Spring Membership Meeting on Monday, April 26. At the time of writing this report it is unknown whether we can meet in person or if we will have to present to the membership by video yet again. Watch for your Membership Meeting packet on or about April 12, 2021.





SCOTTLYN

JACOB

OCTAVIA

NOAH

JAXON

KYLE

LIAM

JOSHUA

JORDYN

fundraising ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING AUCTION UPDATE

Thank you so much for your amazing support at our Online Spring Auction! We are blown away by our community's love for Christian education.

THANK YOU for all of your donations!
We raised over **\$52,500!!**

GOLF TOURNAMENT:

We are planning on holding the golf tournament fundraiser. More details to come at a later date!

ORANJE GROVE GIFT CARDS:

You can purchase Oranje Grove gift cards each month to help support LCS! Orders are due the first Tuesday of each month! Please contact Tanya Slotegraaf for more information.



INTRODUCING THE *Wiling Family*

Hello, our names are Pieter and Katie Wilting. We have been blessed with 3 wonderful children: Ronella (2016), Karissa (2018), and Derik (2020). We live on a dairy farm between Atwood and Listowel. We attend Bethel CRC.

Pieter attended LCS and Woodland Christian High School. He works at home on the farm and we love feeding calves together as a family. He enjoys spending extra time working on indoor and outdoor home projects & welding.

Katie grew up on a chicken and beef farm outside of Drayton and attended the Drayton Christian School. She completed a McMaster University degree in Kinesiology and Nursing, but absolutely loves being a stay at home mother and living/working on the farm. She enjoys sports, gardening, and playing with her kids.

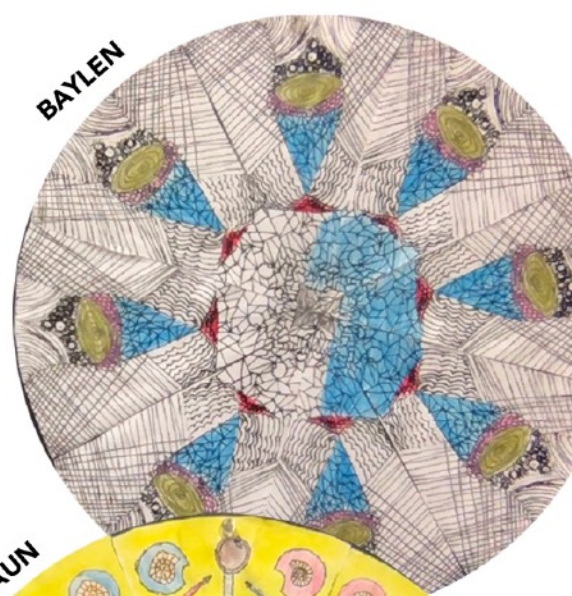
Ronella is in JK and really loves school! She is outgoing, has lots of energy, and is really helpful. She loves to make crafts, has a great imagination, and finds lots of fun things to do with her siblings.

Karissa is kindhearted, helpful, and a great big sister. She loves to dance, colour, and play in the sandbox. She loves playing with her siblings and is excited to go to school too!

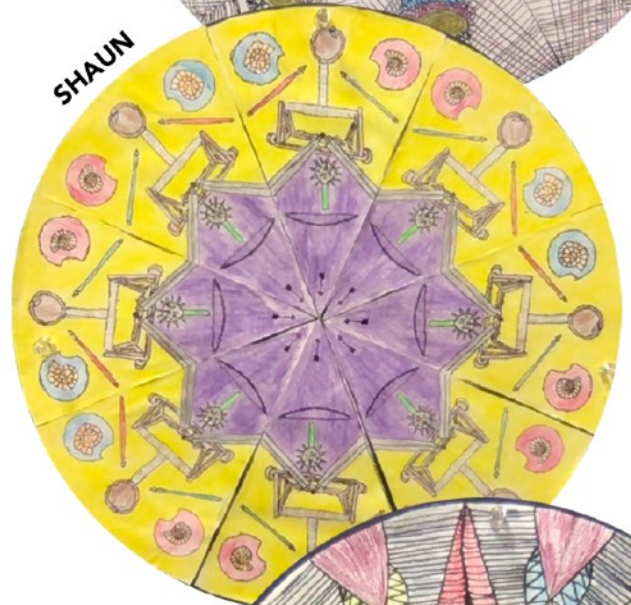
Derik is an easy going, patient little guy who loves to smile & laugh. He loves the jolly jumper & watching his big sisters play.

As a family, we love spending time together outside! We enjoy going to the bush, going camping, and finding adventurous things to do around home/the farm.

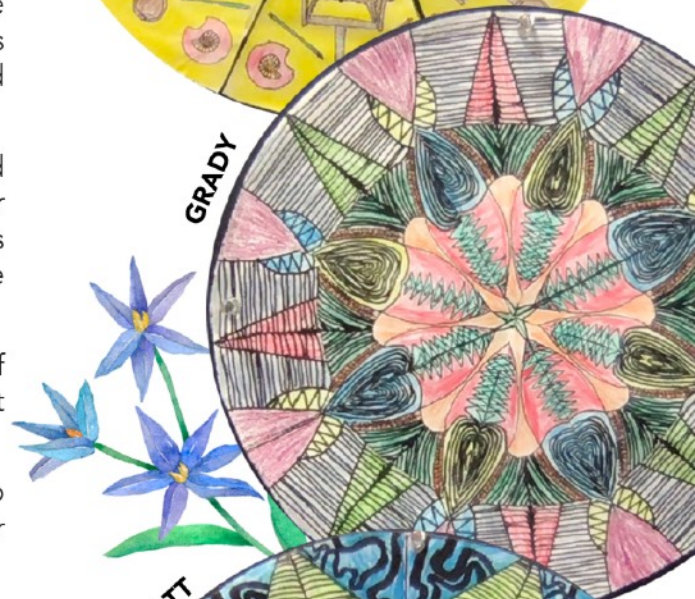
We both attended Christian elementary schools, so sending our children to LCS was an easy decision. As a new family, it's unfortunate that because of covid, we can't be more involved and partake in various school activities. But, we are thankful for Christian education that integrates nurturing the faith of our children into their everyday learning. We are so excited to be a part of the LCS community!



BAYLEN



SHAUN



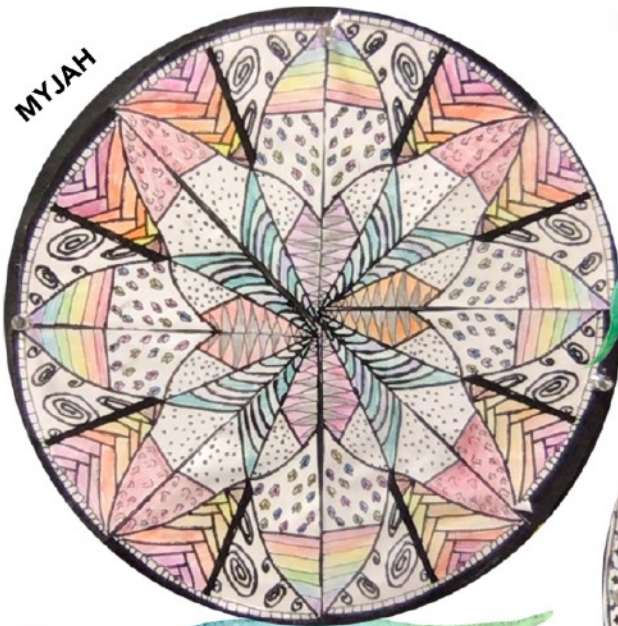
GRADY



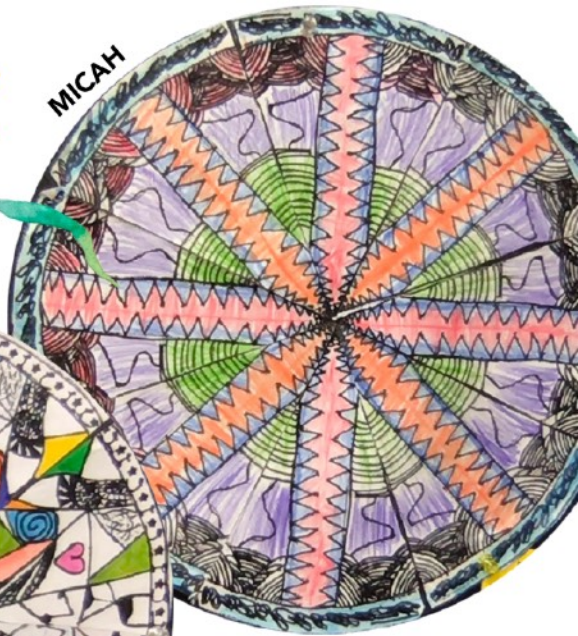
SCOTT



MYJAH



MICAH



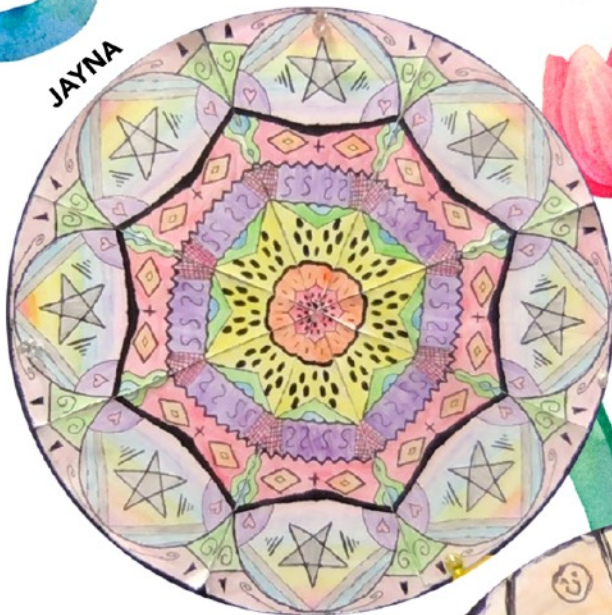
LEXIE



LOGAN



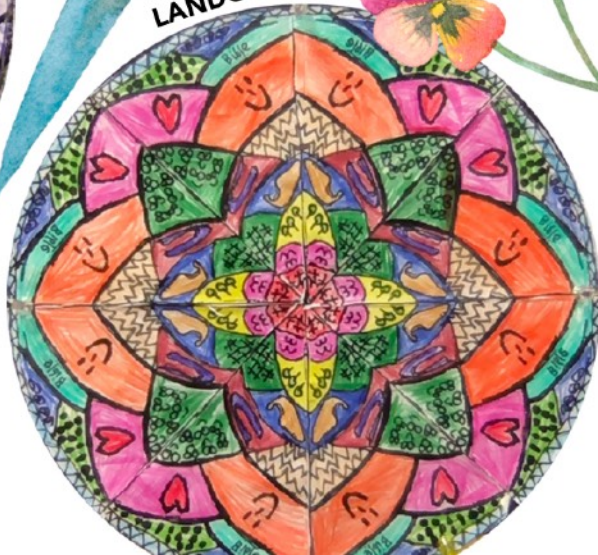
JAYNA



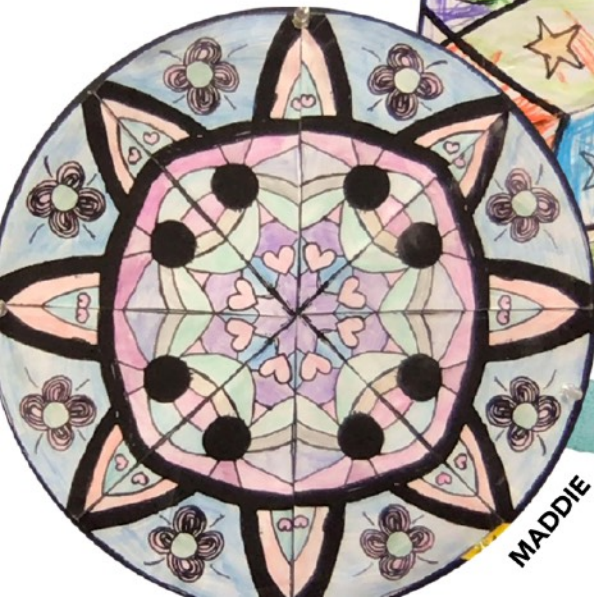
KASE

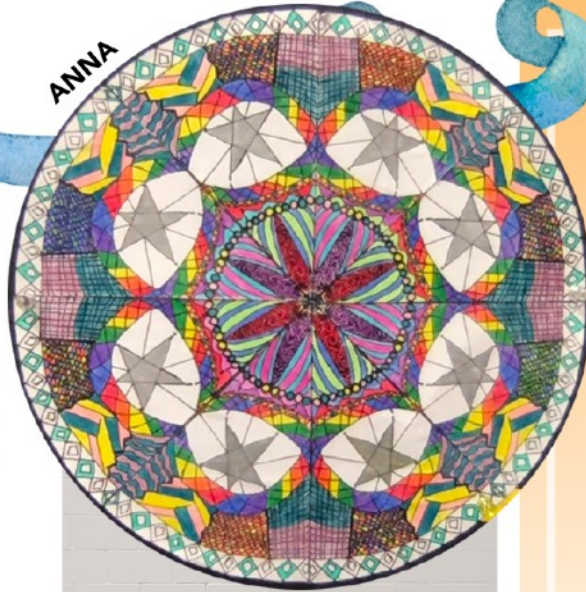
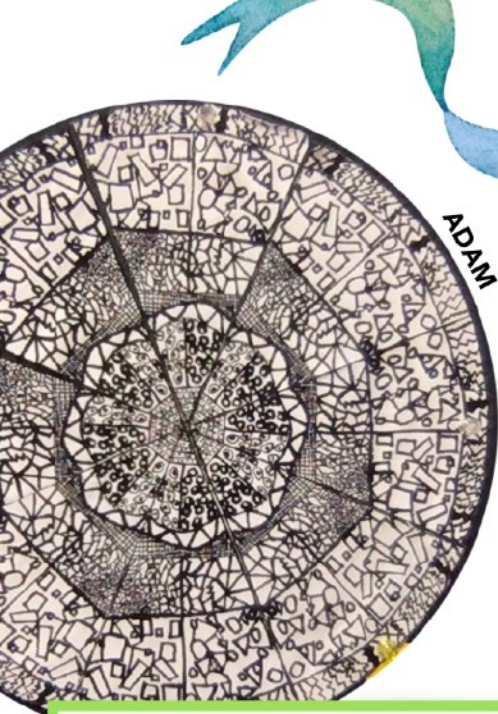


LONDON



MADDIE





PURPOSE STATEMENT

EDUCATING CHILDREN

while nurturing faith in Christ

TO INTERPRET AND IMPACT GOD'S WORLD

MARCH *madness*

Student Leadership organized a March Madness event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3 - 7 Christian Education Week

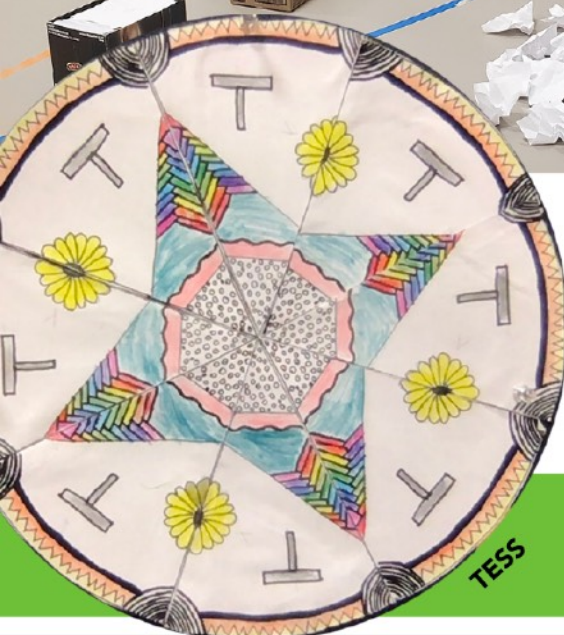
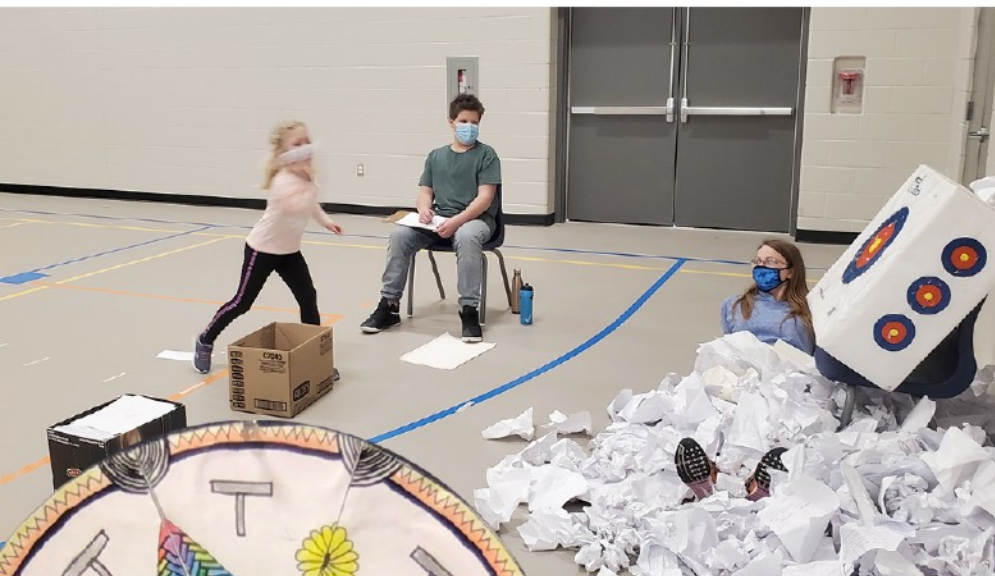
May 2 - 15 LCS Read-A-Thon

Mon. May 24 Victoria Day (no school)

Mon. June 21 SK Graduation

Wed. June 23 Gr. 8 Graduation

Fri. June 25 Last day of school (final report cards go home)



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