- THE OMMUNICATOR

### Graduation DEVOTIONS

#### BY ED BOELENS

It is my honour to welcome everyone here tonight. Tonight, we gather as a smaller community, but we know that later others will also watch and join us in celebrating the achievements of this class. Paul talks about a cloud of witnesses that surrounds us during key moments in the journey of our lives. Graduates, tonight is one of those key moments when your friends and family are around you to encourage you.

Grade 8 students, this is your graduation. As I look at you all, I am reminded that not long ago you walked our hallways, came to school in ripped jeans, soaking wet socks and uncombed hair, couldn't get prepared for class with the right materials on time, handed in incomplete homework, and then left for home forgetting one thing or another. But I shouldn't continue because we are here to celebrate the positive things about you, and there are lots of those to talk about. Just look at you all. You look amazing. Tonight is about you as the LCS graduating class of 2021!

We begin this evening with a devotion on the verse picked by this class. The class picked Jeremiah 29:11-13. When I first read it, it all sounded very good -



an appropriate passage that looks to the future. Especially after the year we had, we all need to be offered words of hope. This is a good verse for you at this time. As we move through this pandemic, we never know what lies ahead, what restrictions will be in place, or what opportunities will open up month after month if not day after day. Yet there is a sense of relief and peace knowing that God has plans in place. Plans for us personally but also plans for His world. God is in control, and we can rest in that.

But then I read it again and again a few days later and looked at where it was found in the context of the Bible. This is Jeremiah writing to a people in captivity. I am not sure what you are trying to say about your time at LCS. It wasn't that bad, was it?

However, these verses are words of encouragement, which is what we are here to do for you. As we send you off from LCS, we have the confidence that God has plans for you, good plans, plans that will benefit you, plans that will allow you to prosper. Now prosper may mean different things, more than lots of money. I think to prosper means to be healthy, to find meaningful work, to honour God in healthy relationships, to be comfortable and confident in who God created you to be. God has plans for you to prosper - to be used as His servants in his world.

You have some responsibility in this text too. You have to ask him to be a part of your life. If you call, he will listen, if you look, you will find. When I was a kid, my mother would always send us on a scavenger hunt for our Christmas and birthday presents. We would get a note, usually in a nicely wrapped toilet paper roll, that said something like "look for your present where your shoes are supposed to be, not where they are". There we would find another wrapped toilet paper role with another clue or riddle that would lead us to yet another. After several notes, we never knew how many there were going to be, we were led to the gift. We never gave up because we knew that, more often than not, the gift was worth the hunt. God asks the same of you today. Sometimes you may feel like giving up and saying, "alright already, enough, let me know what you want me to do". But God may say "keep looking, you must use your whole heart". And when you do, he gives you hope! The reward of the present, the feeling that God is right beside you, directing your path, is worth it!

Graduates of 2021, 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. Now, God is hoping you all energetically seek him so he will have great pleasure in allowing you to prosper, allowing you to be happy, to be used to live as lights in a world that needs you. Yes, graduates, the world beyond the walls of LCS needs you.

Be encouraged, Grads, from captivity to a future with hope!





But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. ISAIAH 40:31

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at LCS and know I will miss it. I have made friends and had many great memories – both at the old building and the new one. I participated in a number of extra curricular activities since coming to this school in grade one including joining the soccer, hockey, and Battle of the Books teams. If I were to choose one favorite memory it would be the Ottawa trip. I have no idea what I am going to do when I grow up, but I trust that God will provide me with his guidance. I will be attending Woodland Christian High School in September.

Loyal to all his friends Unbelievably smart Knows a lot Very Energetic and never stops running



## Trenton COLEMAN

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. The Lord works out everything to its proper end, even the wicked, for a day of disaster. PROVERBS 16:3-4

I have been at LCS for two years with Mr. K, Mr. Boelens, Mrs. Vogel, Ms. Van Kampen, and Ms. ten Brink. I took part in hockey and soccer. Even though most of my time at LCS was online, I had a lot of fun with everyone there. Next year I will be going to LDSS.

> Knows The Bible Radical and funny Enjoys gaming Nice guy Talented at snowboarding hOckey player Now he's graduating





### *Valedictorian* SPEECH BY KATHERINE VANDONKERSGOED

Well, today is graduation day. Can you guys believe it is actually happening? What happened to playing cats on the playground and singing songs about squishing baby bumblebees in SK? We used to be the little cute kids that were scared of those big grade 8s, and now we have become those big grade 8s... but I'm not sure about the scary part. We can't be that scary, right? We got on that bus every Tuesday and Thursday back in 2011 ready to take on anything, thinking school would always be about squishing baby bumblebees and playing cats on the playground, with the odd alphabet song along the way. Boy, were we wrong. It is full of tests and notes and binders so full that they decide they can't hold the papers anymore and explode all over the floor. But, in spite of all those things, school isn't just about learning. Yeah Mr. Boelens, it isn't about finding all the numbers, x's, and solving their problems. It's about the people and all the good memories you make with them, whether it be dumping Seth in the dumpster, having snowball fights or smacking each other with our indoor shoes and stealing them. Honestly, the only

reason I wanted online school to end was because I missed having fun with my class. Even though some of us loved sports, some could barely put down a book, some were so creative with writing or art, we almost always found a way to get along in some way or another. Let's face it guys, being together is great and school has been the place for us to do that. Does that mean we like school? I think the lockdown proves that we like school - the social part at least. Now we are moving on to new schools to make even more awesome memories.

Some assurance that I can give you for the coming years is that God has a plan for each and every one of you, and he will be there to guide you through those new situations you find yourself in. That is why we chose our grad verse, Jeremiah 29:11-13. Don't worry about what is going to happen in the future, God already knows. Just focus on the moment you are in, like this one. Sure, you might not like what he has in store for you, and when bad things happen you may question him, and even become angry. Believe me, I've had my moments of questioning him. You may ask him, "why me?" or "What have I done to deserve this?". Just remember that he is doing these things for a reason and that the



## Jocelyn desjardine

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

#### JOHN 3:16

I came to LCS about 2 years ago. For most of my schooling I was home-schooled. I was happy I got done work before lunch and didn't have to bother with other kids, but then I was told I'd be going to a Christian school in Listowel! At first, I wasn't happy about going to school and have to deal with the handing things in on time and sitting at a desk all day. In the beginning, I felt alone and upset so I talked to my teacher, Mrs.Vogel – she is so nice! In Grade 8, I started to talk to some of the girls in my grade and finally I slowly started to like school (don't tell my family). Now I'm graduating! So thank you to all the teachers and staff at LCS for helping me be ready for High School. I will be attending Norwell Secondary School in Palmerston.

> Joyful spirit cOnfident Creative Energetic Lively stYlish uNderstanding



## Natalie GREYDANUS

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. ROMANS 8:38-39

In my time at LCS, I had the privilege of being able to participate in activities such as Battle of the Books, the Christmas musical (once), and many sporting events including soccer, baseball, basketball, volleyball, and track and field. It has also given me the opportunity to make lots of friends and grow in my faith. I will be continuing my school career at Woodland Christian High School.

Natalie's tall, Natalie's sweet, Natalie's funny; no one can compete. She is always so happy, she gives off a cheer, the glitter she spreads takes a long time to clear. A good Christian girl with a great mind for school. She's awesome, she's gentle, she's kind, and she's cool.

#### VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH CONTINUED

final result will be better than before! When you struggle, remember that he will listen to you, and he even wants to talk with you. Do not be scared to share your feelings with him. You don't have to talk to anyone else if you don't feel comfortable, but God already knows, so why not talk to him. He will be with all of us as we go off to different schools, make new friends, and learn new things, whether boring, interesting, scary or gross. I'll be in the bathroom while they dissect those frogs, thanks. We will encounter many new situations, some easy and some, not so much. I hope your years at LCS will help you get through these situations.

I hope you make the most of your high school years and take advantage of learning opportunities. High school may seem daunting at first, and it should! It is new and a big change, but I am sure you will all do great. There will be different things to participate in, like dances and clubs. There will be other opportunities outside of school, like Youth Group and Catechism. Remember to do what you want, not what everyone else is doing. Luke, you could join a book club of some sort. Hayley could do some after school art. Maybe Gracie could join a baking club. Maybe there will even be a goat club for Levi. I'm sure most of us would try out for sports teams. There are so many different things! But before you get too excited, we have to finish this ceremony first.

I'd like to first of all thank all of our parents for sending us to this amazing school and the teachers, for teaching us almost everything we know and for putting up with this crazy bunch. I am sure we were a handful some days, but you still managed to make it to the end of the day. Lastly, I'd like to thank you guys, my classmates. This year has been hard on all of us. I am so thankful for all the support you guys have given me, even though I wasn't around much. Believe me, I wanted more than anything to be at school with you all, as I mentioned earlier. Thank you for all the laughs, great memories, the late afternoon good mornings, and even those awkward zooms we planned where we'd sometimes just sit there and stare at the screen. Even though we couldn't have a huge gathering for this special day, I am so glad we could still celebrate it somewhat together. So Natalie, Gerrit, Jocelyn, Scott, Kenzie, Seth, Gracie, Levi, Hayely, Dylen, Brooke, Trenton, William, and Luke, I hope that tonight you can make a few more memories and go out knowing we have made a huge accomplishment.









So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

My decade at LCS has been spent growing spiritually, physically, and mentally. I was part of Student Leadership the last two years and was in the annual Christmas musical once. Although my grade seven and eight years were subdued with online learning, I still have some good memories from those years and the ones previous. Some of my favourite memories are from field trips, especially the Ottawa trip. But if I had to pick one favourite memory, it would have to be when my ukulele broke mid-performance. I will be going to Woodland Christian High School next year and am excited to start my time there.

> God Believer Extremely Fast in Running Really Good with Technology Really Small Writing Intelligent and Creative Tall

### Gracie meinen

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you: I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ISAIAH 41:10

For the 7 years I have been at LCS, I have grown in my relationship with God. I have done that through my Christian family, friends, and teachers. I participated in some team sports and trips and, even though we did not win, we still had fun and cheered each other on. I am going to Woodland Christian High School next year and I am very excited. I hope to continue to strengthen my faith as I meet new friends and continue my education there. I have many great memories of LCS, but one of them has to be with Mrs. O'Boyle in the Grade 1 and 2 class. LCS has been a great adventure and experience.

> Generous fRiendly Accepting Caring Intelligent Enthusiastic



BY KENZIE, HAYLEY & WILLIAM

**Kenzie: Introduction:** When we volunteered to be historians, it all sounded great – what an honour right? Then the work started. We are thankful for Google Docs so we can work on the same document and share ideas. That part worked really well. Unfortunately, we shared it with Mr. Boelens too and he kept popping in and telling us to write more, add details, keep going. But here we are with an amazing speech to deliver. We hope you enjoy it.

**Hayley:** We have made so many great memories at LCS, made so many friends and we are very sad to leave them, we have learned lots... most of the time and have had lots of fun. We want to share all these memories with you.

William: JK: It all began in JK. Our class started with Gerrit Johnston, Kase Kikkert, Brooke Thalen, Katherine VanDonkersgoed, Kenzie Siebenga, Sarah Kers, Levi Stryuk, and myself. This was our first year in school so as you can imagine we were shy at first, but we quickly adjusted to being at school and made friends instantly. Our teacher in JK was Mrs. Hieda. It was a good year, we got to know all of the people in our class, and we all became good friends. We learned the alphabet and sang it lots, and sometimes now we still do. At recess, we were overcome with awe of all the toys, playground equipment, and open space to play. Our field trip that year was going to the fire station, police station and after that, we headed to the park for some pizza. Fire trucks, police cars, and pizza - what a great combination.

**K: SK:** The second year of school was just as good as the first. We got to see all of the friends we made the year before and even welcome some new ones. We

welcomed Olivia Vanderwall, Seth VanderKlippe, Scott Weber, Dylen Rastorfer, and Natalie Greydanus. We also got to keep the same teacher, Mrs. Hieda. SK was a bit harder. We learned how to spell and write our names, but we got to keep our nap time and playtime. At playtime, the girls usually played dress up and the boys would play Lego or play in the sandbox with the hot wheels cars. For our field trip, we went to the pumpkin patch.

**H: Grade 1:** Grade 1 was the first year I was at LCS, Luke Bootsma and Nathan Vanderploeg also came that year. We all became great friends. Grade one was a big jump for us, we got to go to the big side of the playground where all the big kids played, but sadly we lost nap time (which we still miss in grade 8). Our teacher this year was Ms. MacDonell. For our field trip, we went to Legoland. It was a very enjoyable experience. At recess, we always played with grasshoppers. We would catch them and put them in tires, but they always hopped out.

W: Grade 2: Grade 2 was the first year we were split (and the only year). Half of our class was with Mrs. O'Boyle (Ms. MacDonell got married and is now called Mrs. O'Boyle) and the grade ones and the other half was with Ms. Van Rooyen and the grade threes. We still got to play together at recess though. We got the privilege of welcoming Gracie Meinen to our class but we lost Dylen Rastorfer (stay tuned - he will be back). This year we went to Ripley's aquarium. This was a bit of a different field trip for us because we got to see lots of different sea creatures and even touch some of them.

**K: Grade 3:** Grade 3 was a good year because we were in the same class as the rest of the grade 3's. We had Ms. Van Rooyen as our teacher and we had lots of fun times with her. We welcomed Samuel Barnhorn to our class that year, and gladly Dylen Rastorfer came back



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Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. JOSHUA 1:9

For the past nine years I have been at LCS. I have grown physically, mentally, and spiritually with the help of my friends and teachers. I have participated on the school hockey team, battle of the books, the leadership team, and track and field. I appreciated the closeness and kindness of the LCS community. To be honest, I had some really good times with my friends, and I never really would've thought I would miss going to school, but the past few months have proved me wrong. I will be going to Woodland Christain High School this coming fall and I don't have my complete future planned out but I will follow God's calling.

> Kin**D** hearted Enjo**Y**s farming Likes to play hockey Lov**E**s Case IH Never gives up



## U/illiam Rylaarsdam

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; ISAIAH 43:2

My journey at LCS has been filled with lots of fun and excitement. I am thankful for all the years that I could grow in my faith and learning. I enjoyed being part of the hockey team and the soccer team. My favourite memory at LCS was probably the Ottawa trip where I was able to spend lots of time with my classmates; seeing all the sites, skating on the canal, tubing, staying in a hotel, eating out, and the bus ride home. In the fall, I plan to attend FE Madill High School in Wingham. My hope is to be a farmer and I can't wait to see what God has planned for me in the future!

> Willing to help Is a very hard worker Is a folLower of Jesus Loves to chat Loves hIs cows A Maple Leafs fan A Magnificent friend

#### HISTORIAN SPEECH CONTINUED

that year (told you). We got to go to the African Lion Safari for our field trip. We were able to see lots of different animals that normally we wouldn't see like monkeys, lions, and elephants.

**H: Grade 4:** Grade 4 was different again. We went to the big kids side which was a lot bigger than what we were used to but there was no playground. Our teacher was Mrs. Delleman. Sadly, we didn't welcome anybody new that year, but we lost Samuel Barnhorn halfway through the year. Many of us were really excited that year because we were finally able to try out for the sports teams but most of us didn't make any of them. This year we went to camp Menesetung where we got to go on a rock-climbing wall and shoot bow and arrows at targets.

W: Grade 5: Grade 5 was a big year. We had Mr. Katerberg as our teacher, and we can never forget when he stops class just to tell us one of his "funny" stories or jokes. This was the year that most of us could actually try out for the sports teams and make it. Also, sadly this was our last year in the old school so that meant the last week of school all we did was clean out the classroom which was a lot better than doing work. Our field trip for that year was going treetop trekking which was a great time. Many of us enjoyed this field trip because we were swinging from ropes in trees, and we especially liked sliding down the ziplines.

**K: Grade 6:** Grade 6 was our first year in the new school. We had Mr. Katerberg as our teacher again (aka Mr. K). We will never forget the one time there was a mouse in our classroom and Mr. K went in the room with the mouse and closed the door and then we heard a loud stomp and a crack. Mr. K opened the door, and he was holding a dead mouse. For our field trip, we went to Camp Kintail. We learned how to play disc golf and we went down a huge slide that all of us had fun on.

**H: Grade 7:** Grade 7 was the first year that we had multiple teachers, and it was hard to keep up with all of the homework at first. We got two new classmates, Trenton Coleman, who came at the beginning of the school year, and Jocelyn DesJardine who came right before the Ottawa trip. It was a very exciting year; we got to go on the Ottawa trip and it was amazing. We did so many fun activities. We got to skate on the canal and go to a wave pool. Luckily, we got to go on the Ottawa trip just before the pandemic was announced because in March we were sent home to do online school. It was difficult, but we managed to persevere through it all.

W: Grade 8: Grade 8 is supposed to be one of the most exciting years. We were supposed to go on field trips, go to the Salvation Army, and lots of other things, but sadly none of these things happened. Instead, the year was full of masks, hand sanitizer, and zoom meetings. We started off by going to school in person until the week before Christmas break where sadly our teacher, Mrs. Vogel had to leave but we welcomed a new teacher, Ms. Van Kampen. We stayed in online learning until early February but then we had to come back home after April break for more online learning and boring zoom calls. Even though grade 8 wasn't what we expected, there have been some good times like team events that were organized, new sports and activities that we did for gym class, and even more desk space.

**K: Conclusion:** Our journey at LCS was full of ups and downs, funny moments, sad moments, and even in between. We will always remember how LCS has made us stronger in our faith and helped us grow even closer to God. We will miss the friends we have made along the way and teachers that have taught us to read, write, tie our shoes, and solve difficult math problems. They have guided us into being better people. Thanks to all the friends, family, and teachers that have been supporting us and putting up with us through these years, you have been amazing.

H: Amen.







### *Kenzie* siebenga

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

LCS has been one of my most exciting adventures. I've participated in many things such as sports events, pie day and many more. I've made so many memories at LCS, my favourite one though has to be skating on the canal on the Ottawa trip or just the whole Ottawa trip in general. Next year, I will be attending Woodland Christian High School. Although I am sad to leave LCS, I am excited to make new friends and have new adventures.

> li**K**es to talk athl**E**tically skilled k**N**ows his manners **Z**ealous for sports Dalry farmer A fri**E**ndly leader

Levi STRUYK

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. PROVERBS 16:3

I have been at LCS since JK. Some of my closest friends are Gerrit, Luke, Scott, and Dylan. I really like the team events because they are an event that the whole school could do together. Field trips are always fun too, my favourite was the tree top trekking because it was different than all the rest. I really liked LCS because it was a Christian school. That is so important for me because I get to learn about what it means to be a Christian and how I need to live my life.

Loves goats Extremely funny Vivid imagination Likes to "wlpe it down"





But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. PSALM 3:3

In my past 10 years at LCS, I have been involved in many things like sports, leadership, plays, and some clubs, Battle of the Books, and art. I have been taught many things at LCS but the one that has stuck with me the most is that Mr. Boelens is always right, especially when playing MattBall. Some of my favourite memories with my class are: the Science and Tech Museum in Ottawa, snowshoeing at the park and flipping over the fences, and when our class sang at Mrs. O's wedding. Although I love LCS, I am happy to be leaving and attending Woodland Christian High School in the fall.

> Believer in God Responsible Really gOod at High jump Open Hearted and Optimistic Kind Encourages Friends



## Seth VANDERKLIPPE

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

The 10 year journey at LCS has been great. I have been able to make so many friends and learn so many things. I have also been able to participate in sports events, plays, and Battle of the Books, all of which have been amazing. I appreciate all the teachers I have had, people who have taken the time to teach kids from a Christian standpoint and helping them to grow in their faith, which is not always easy to do. My favorite memory at LCS is the Ottawa trip, which was an awesome experience. In September, I am going to FE Madill. I would like to become a Doctor or an Engineer.

A brother, a Christian, a worker, a friend. So many good qualities to comprehend! His hair is such a work of art that with his comb he will never part. His clothes are always crisp and bright, his brain is great, no picking fights. Athletic, fun, patient, kind. Seth never drives me out of my mind. Gentle when needed, a great sibling too. I think that Seth's a great guy – don't you?





# Hayley vanderwier

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. MATTHEW 7:12

I started at LCS in Grade 1. I participated in Battle of the Books, soccer, and baseball. A special memory from LCS would have to be on the day that Georgia died. We all took a break from school work and spent time supporting each other and sharing memories we had with her. I had many good teachers and they taught me so much. They also cared about me as a person, not just one of their many students. I have made many friends, we have grown so much together, and I am very sad to leave. I will be attending LDSS in September, which will be a new and exciting journey for me.

> Happy gal Always tries her best You ROCK!! Loves animals Chick**E**n farmer And **Y**es, she's graduating gr8

### Katherine VANDONKERSGOED

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

Throughout my 10 years at LCS I have made so many great memories and had awesome classmates. I enjoyed most subjects and have taken part in Battle of the Books, musicals, most sports, Student Leadership, and Model United Nations. Surprisingly, I did not have a nickname even though my name still holds the record of the longest in the class. I had many great teachers that helped me grow in my faith and actually have some fun in school. If I have to choose my favorite memory it would be the Ottawa trip, especially when we went Laser Tagging and did 7s versus 8s. I will be attending LDSS. I am not entirely sure on what career I would like to pursue, but I was thinking maybe an art therapist for cancer patients, as I know how hard the road of treatment is.

An artist in body and at heart as well, her drawings superb, her lettering swell. A lover of God, courageous and strong, she'll get through most anything, don't get me wrong. Faithful and fun, creative, at peace, a lover not a fighter, the Lord's masterpiece! She truly can do all things with God who gives her strength, who makes Grade 8 special? We've got Katherine to thank!



## Scott weber

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. PSALM 119:105

During my 9 years at LCS, I have made great memories and lots of good friends. LCS has taught me more about God and the Bible and has helped me be who I am today. I appreciate the good teachers at LCS and how they always know how to help you and provide all the different opportunities LCS offers to the students. My favourite memory of LCS is the Ottawa trip; I liked seeing all the different museums and skating on the canal. In the fall I will be attending Listowel District Secondary School and, in the future, I hope to be a farmer or truck driver.

Smart Country Boy Likes Offroading Not afraid To show he is a Christian Talented **"FOR I KNOW** THE PLANS *Thave for you,"* DECLARES THE LORD, *"plans to prosper you* AND NOT TO HARM YOU, **plans to give you HOPE AND A FUTURE.** 

THEN YOU WILL eall on me and come and pray to me, AND I WILL LISTEN TO YOU.

YOU WILL SEEK ME and find me WHEN YOU SEEK ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART.

JEREMIAH 29:11-13

