



6th - 8th Grade Curriculum for **Lampert**

LAMP, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, is an organization that is focused on sharing Jesus Christ with God's people in remote areas of northern Canada. LAMP has four full-time missionaries who serve different regions and over 300 volunteer missionaries (ranging in age from 16 years old to over 80 years old) who serve in over 40 communities. The communities that they serve in are mainly Indigenous communities. Each summer, more than 5,000 children and youth will attend a LAMP Vacation Bible School or youth program.



Who are the Indigenous peoples?

Indigenous peoples is a term used in Canada that includes First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Peoples. Indigenous peoples are descendants of the original inhabitants of Canada who lived in the area for many years before European explorers arrived. Indigenous peoples have a distinct culture and way of life.

What are Indigenous communities like?

The communities that the Indigenous people live in are like small towns. There are houses, schools, and usually one store. However, many of the communities are very isolated. For most of the year, people are only able to get into these communities by airplane. For one or two months in the winter, an ice road is built that allows people to drive into the community and transport in much-needed supplies that cannot be brought in by airplane.

The children and youth in these communities are just like you. They go to school, hang out with their friends and family, play sports, and are connected using technology and social media.





Meet Pastor-Pilot Dennis

One of the missionaries that serves some of the Indigenous communities is Pastor-Pilot Dennis Ouellette. Pastor Dennis' job is to look after all of the communities in Ontario and some in Manitoba as well. Pastor Dennis is also a pilot, which allows him to fly one of LAMP's airplanes into these communities.

Pastor Dennis visits communities multiple times throughout the year. During the summer months, he is in the communities to support the LAMP teams that are serving at Vacation Bible School, teen nights and Bible study, sports activities, and other events. At other times during the year, he will visit communities to conduct parenting workshops, make personal visits, and help in times of crisis.



When Pastor-Pilot Dennis is not in the communities, he still has on-going communication with our main community contacts and his northern friends. Technology allows Pastor-Pilot Dennis to stay connected. Facebook, email, Skype, texting, and other social media platforms, in addition to phone calls, are some of the ways that Pastor Dennis and all of LAMP's staff and volunteer missionaries stay connected to their friends in the North.

Even with all of today's technology to help communicate with people far away, nothing is as good as actually being there. One of LAMP's former missionaries, Pastor-Pilot Steve Dreher wrote, "Even though the mobile phone wraps up the capabilities of a computer, TV, music player, camera, video recorder, GPS, and game system into an affordable and easy-to-carry package, there is one thing this small device can not do. It can not reach out and touch someone."

Pastor-Pilot Dreher also wrote, "Even with all of the Facebook pictures and messaging that help me communicate back and forth with my friends in isolated northern Canadian communities, nothing is the same as face-to-face contact with a caring hug. It is not uncommon for a person to sign off Facebook with "love and hugs :-)," which will find its fulfillment in my next visit."

Can you understand why it is so important that Pastor Dennis and all of LAMP's missionaries are able to go into the communities each year?



We have a God who chooses to physically touch us in His Son Jesus Christ. As Christians today, God’s touch comes to us through Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. In Baptism, we are physically touched with the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Holy Communion, we are physically touched with the body and blood of Jesus, given and shed for us on the cross. In both of these sacraments, we are physically touched by God offering us the gospel, love, grace, reconciliation, forgiveness and restoration as the people of God. The hug of God.

Mobile phones are powerful and impressive. However, they will never take the place of the healing, caring, forgiving physical touch we offer as brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you, our heavenly Father, for your gift of touch in Jesus.

What can you do to help support Pastor Dennis and LAMP's other missionaries?

Pray!



- For protection and safety as missionaries travel
- For encouragement; for good, faithful friends among the people that they serve
- For the people they work with to get to know Jesus and that they would grow in faith and love



- Ask God to help grow your faith.



- Be a missionary wherever you are — tell others about Jesus and His great love for them.



- Support Mission teams with your offerings.





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“At six thousand feet above the earth’s surface, all fly-in remote communities in northern Canada look like wonderfully peaceful locations for a much deserved place to escape. What could be better than to be isolated from the city by lakes filled with walleye and northern pike? Can you imagine no stop lights in town? Every house in the village has a lake side view. The water looks pristine and the sunsets are spectacular. Can it get any better?”

—Steve Dreher

However, it doesn’t look quite the same when you arrive in the community. Often what we see on the surface isn’t an indicator of what is really happening. Within many Indigenous communities, there is much hurt and brokenness. One in four children live in poverty. Housing is often poor and inadequate, with many people living in houses in need of repair, over-crowded, and filled with mold. Sadly, suicide rates among the Indigenous youth are five to seven times higher than non-Indigenous people in Canada.



(http://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/events/fact_sheet-ccoe-3.pdf).



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In some of the communities LAMP serves, there is much tragedy, heartbreak and not a lot of hope. LAMP's missionaries do not go into these communities to fix all of these problems. Instead, LAMP's missionaries spend time building and maintaining friendships with people so that they too can know and experience, first-hand, the love and care of Jesus.

One thing we all need is someone to be our friend who accepts whatever is hidden beneath the surface. As John's Gospel reminds us, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (*John 15:13 NIV*) It is important that we all have "...a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (*Proverbs 18:24 NIV*) This friend is found in the One who was

willing to offer His life on a cross as payment for all of our sinful thoughts, words, and actions. Jesus is our friend who promises to never leave or forsake us. Jesus is a friend who gives and forgives unconditionally. Jesus is a friend who allows us to sit in his peaceful, loving and forgiving embrace. As LAMP's missionaries continue to remind people and proclaim the hope each of us has in Jesus, we continue to see God's love and grace in each of these northern communities.

What can you do to help support LAMP's missionaries?

Pray!



- That God would empower each of us to be a caring and loving friend
- Thank God for His friendship in Jesus
- That each one of us would use the gifts God has given us to proclaim His love, forgiveness, and salvation
- That people in Indigenous communities would continue to grow in their faith
- For those in northern Canada who are struggling, to cling to God during this time and be reminded of His love.



- Ask God to help grow your faith.



- Be a missionary wherever you are — tell others about Jesus and His great love for them.



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In school, different forms of measurements are used to show how well students are doing. For instance, if a student achieved 40% on a test, that shows he/she likely did not understand the material being taught, and it is often called a failing grade. But, if they were to get 100% on a test, they were successful and really understood the material they were learning about. In addition to tests, there are also progress reports or report cards that tell the students, the teachers, and the parents how they did in each subject.

LAMP's missionaries do not have any sort of formal progress report or report card. It is a difficult task to measure or grade LAMP's work in sharing the love of Jesus Christ in Indigenous communities in northern Canada. However, each year community members share how LAMP has made a difference and ask when we are coming back. Feedback from our volunteer missionaries tells us that what we are doing is important, because it's often the only Spiritual witness in the community.

With the many difficult issues existing in Indigenous communities, the work LAMP's missionaries do may seem insignificant or just a small drop in a large bucket.

One day, one of LAMP's missionaries was talking to Rachel, a support worker in one of the communities LAMP serves in. The missionary was wondering if LAMP and the Vacation Bible Schools that it puts on each summer actually did anything for the communities.

Rachel quickly commented, "Oh yes it does! LAMP has been coming to my small fly-in community for years. As a child I always attended VBS, and it made a difference in my life". Rachel looked down for a moment, then looked up again, and reiterated, "It made a difference in my life". As the Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (*Romans 10:17 NASB*)

Hearing Rachel say that VBS made a difference in her life is far better than getting a test back with a mark of 100% on it. The words that Rachel said fills LAMP's missionaries with a sense of satisfaction that God is directing their paths in the North.





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It is also a reminder that this work is not about us. It is instead about the Spirit of God working in and through His people. When each of us proclaims the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, no matter how small, it is God at work in us. "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Isaiah 52:7 NIV)

Additionally, hearing that what LAMP is doing really matters is a reminder to LAMP's missionaries that they are faithfully doing what God has called each of us to do, to fulfill the Great

Commission: "Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV)

Though we may not be able to precisely measure how well LAMP's missionaries are doing, through love and understanding, LAMP's missionaries bring the hope and promise of Jesus.

What can you do to help support LAMP's missionaries?

Pray!



- That when we feel small and insignificant, God would continue to use us as a tool to tell His Good News
- Give thanks that we have hope and the promise of new life
- That each one of us would use the gifts God has given us to proclaim His love, forgiveness, and salvation
- For all those living in the North, that each person would feel comforted by God's peace



- Ask God to help grow your faith.



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LAMP

Taking the light of Christ to the ends of the earth



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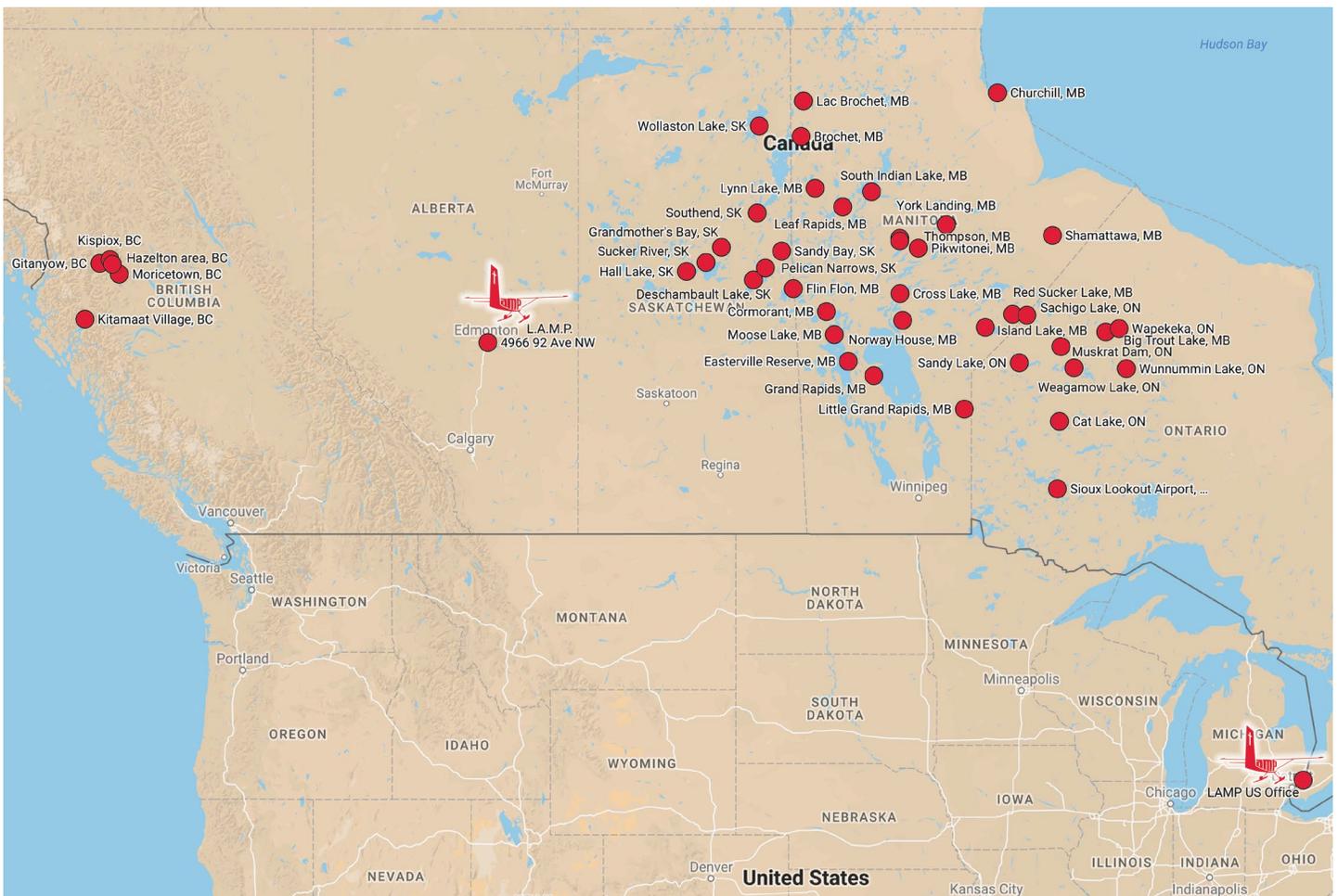
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