



the Advocate

Winter 2015

A Christ-centered resource that supports children with learning needs.

From Struggling to Smiling

Parents, teachers and LSEM working together to make sure a student has an opportunity to incorporate a better model for learning

“As I learned more about the ministry and its history, I realized I had found a precious jewel...”

LSEM has been a blessing to our family in so many ways

By Liz Roe, LSEM Development Director

When Mia was in first grade, I knew something wasn't adding up with her learning.

As the sibling of a dyslexic, I was keenly aware of the patterns to spot in her spelling and learning. She struggled with identifying sight words and her weekly spelling list was a huge source of frustration for the whole family. It would take her nearly a half hour to struggle through reading a simple paragraph. She cried frequently and became sad about school. When she was finally diagnosed with dyslexia three years later we feared that it was too late and she was dangerously close to “falling through the cracks.”

As a family, we saw Mia's ability to process information differently as a gift and prayed for better days with her classroom learning. We decided a change in her school environment would be the best option and met with the principal at Trinity Lutheran School in Utica, Michigan. Trinity stood out because of its program for children with unique learning needs. We were introduced to **Linda Moilanen** and **Cristina Taylor**, Trinity's resource room teachers, who reviewed Mia's test results and previous IEP and assured us they could write a learning plan that would help her excel at school. In doing my due diligence as a parent, I learned that Linda and Cristina were more than just special education teachers at Trinity—they were members of LSEM's nationwide network of teachers. As I learned

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Mia works with her LSEM teacher, Linda Moilanen

Student's success achieved through LSEM and wonderful Christian education

By Linda Moilanen, LSEM Teacher

Mia came to Trinity Utica with an IEP for a learning disability in reading skills and comprehension. She had been attending a local public school along with her older sister whom transferred here mid last year. Falling in love with what a Lutheran school has to offer, coupled with the noticeable difference in their daughter's

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Schumacher joins LSEM

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The Year Ahead...

It's another new year and though we may not always know what lies ahead we do know that God is in control and has been for more than 140 years!

As we begin the new year we want to take time to say good-bye to **Jim Krone** who for the past six years served as LSEM's President and Chief Executive Officer. Please join us in thanksgiving and praise to our God for the blessing of his service that spans 28 years and has made a difference in the lives of countless children and their families.



Former LSEM President, Jim Krone, receives a framed drawing of Jesus with His children by artist, Helen Foss, during his farewell luncheon.

Looking ahead we trust that God will provide the person to serve as the next President/CEO. Until that time we are pleased to announce that **Rev. Jeffrey Howell** will serve as the interim President/CEO. For the past seven years Pastor Jeff has served as the Director of Programs and Services and will continue in that role during this time of transition.

We are excited for all that God will continue to do as we work together to share the good news that every child, regardless of their learning need is valued and deserves a chance to grow and be all that God intends them to be.

Thank you for your prayers and financial partnership that are both so vital in sustaining our ministry!

To God be the Glory!

Susan Vogt
Chair, LSEM Board of Trustees



WestWynd Golf Course • June 12

Become a sponsor or register to golf and support our ministry and the children we serve!

Friday,
June 12, 2015
8:30 a.m. Registration
9 a.m. Shotgun Start

WestWynd Golf Course
4161 N. Adams Rd.
Oakland Twp MI

\$130 — Golf, continental breakfast, lunch, dinner and beverages

\$20 — Dinner only

This year we're celebrating our 10th annual LSEM golf outing. Ask any golfer who has participated in the past and you'll hear one thing — it's one of their most enjoyable rounds of golf all year!

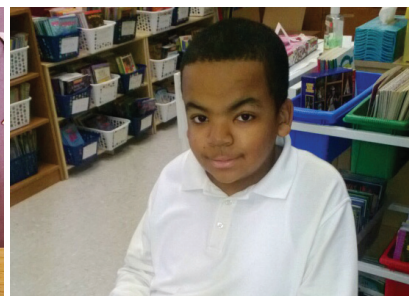
It also supports our ministry and the students with learning needs. The WestWynd Golf Course is our host this season and we're looking forward to another excellent event.

Again this year we have a number of great sponsorship opportunities:

Sponsorship Options

Masters Sponsors	\$2,500
Eagle Sponsors	\$1,000
Birdie Sponsors	\$700
Par Sponsors	\$400
Hole Sponsors	\$100

For more details about these sponsorship opportunities or to register you or your team, please visit our website at luthsped.org/event/180 or contact us at 248-419-3390.



Teacher Conference: Unlocking Literacy Through Structured Language Instruction

LSEM is excited to have **Marcia Henry, Phd.** headline our Teacher Conference on June 10. This all-day workshop includes an overview and some specific strategies from the Orton-Gillingham approach to language instruction.

Orton-Gillingham is an instructional approach intended primarily for use with students who have difficulty with reading, spelling, and writing, often associated

with dyslexia. The essential curricular content and instructional practices that characterize the Orton-Gillingham approach are derived from two sources: a body of time-tested knowledge and practice that has been validated over the past 70 years, and scientific evidence about how students learn to read and write. This workshop will present strategies from the Orton-Gillingham approach that will work for struggling readers in grades K-8 and

explain how to implement such strategies for an effective intervention program for students.

Henry brings over 50 years of experience working in the field of language acquisition, reading and dyslexia as a diagnostician, tutor, teacher, and professor and is an accomplished author and past president of The International Dyslexia Association.



Marcia Henry

Richard Schumacher Joins LSEM



A solid relationship between our partner schools and LSEM is a key element in strengthening the learning opportunities for our students.

To help in that area, LSEM has hired **Richard Schumacher** as Assistant Director of Programs & Services. Richard is no stranger to the LSEM family. His wife, Linda, is an LSEM teacher and

he has assisted with the coordination of the iCAN after-school program at Charity Lutheran Church in Detroit.

With a Bachelor's degree in secondary education and a

Master's in educational leadership, Richard has served as a middle school teacher, principal, youth director and athletic director throughout his career. Most recently he was Coordinator of Secondary Education at Concordia in Ann Arbor.

He and Linda have two children, Wesley (16) and Emma (9). He enjoys fishing and working in his yard. He's a fan of the Wolverines, Tigers and NASCAR driver, Jeff Gordon. You can follow Richard's devotionals which he writes on his blog at day1of1.wordpress.com.

Ways to Help... Donate

Donations are vital to the children we serve. There are a variety of ways to give:

- general gift
- endowment fund
- honor/memorial gifts
- matching gifts
- planned giving

To learn more, contact the Development Department at extension 104.

To donate, use the enclosed envelope or visit online at www.luthsped.org.

THANK YOU!

Check out photos from our Building a Brighter Future Event last September at Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit. We raised over \$11,000 and look forward to holding more events like this at our partner churches.



From Struggling to Smiling

LSEM has been a blessing to our family in so many ways *continued from page 1*

more about the ministry and its history, I realized that I had truly found a precious jewel and started sharing information about LSEM among my network of parents who have children with learning needs.

Mia started the fourth grade at Trinity last year. Prior to the start of the school year, we met with Linda to map out a plan for Mia's learning. Mia now meets daily with Linda to take tests, read and get extra help with her work. We keep in contact frequently with her classroom teacher, **Karen Delmotte** to adjust homework so that Mia is not overwhelmed. Both teachers have recommended iPad apps for us that help her ear-read her textbooks and help boost her comprehension. This team approach has made all the difference!

Linda and Christine, and the support network behind them, have brought out Mia's talents that allow her to shine like the bright star she is. These days she smiles when she leaves for school and isn't sad about her homework. Trinity and her LSEM resource room teachers have reignited her

love of learning—she enjoys reading again and has discovered that she adores science. We have our sweet daughter back—the one who tells a joke that will have you in stitches and can figure out a craft like looming or intricate hair braiding like an expert just by watching a few YouTube videos.

While Mia primarily works with Linda, I also have to sing the praises of Cristina! She does a fantastic job of working with Trinity's Talented and Gifted (TAG) program, which reaches children with unique talents in a different way. Her work with the TAG program students and partnering with mentors in the community to help with learning is inspiring.

LSEM continues to bless our family in so many other ways. This summer I was praying to God to show me the right path for my career. As Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." I came to LSEM as Development Director

knowing that God has extraordinary plans for me. Praise to Him for listening to my prayers and showing me the way here!

I am so excited to be a member of the LSEM family. As a parent, I see on a daily basis the good works our ministry brings to our families and the community. As Development Director for LSEM, I hope to share my story in the hope that it might bring those to our ministry to learn how it transforms lives and families. And I want to hear from you! If you have questions or would like to share your story, please get in touch with me at lroe@luthsped.org.



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Liz Roe was recently named Development Director at LSEM. Her family's experience with the ministry gives her first-hand knowledge of why specialized education is such an important component in our schools.

Student's success achieved through LSEM and wonderful Christian education

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relationships with her peers and teachers, her parents decided they would like to bring Mia over as well. Their only concern was whether we would be able to meet Mia's needs to accommodate her challenges with learning.

We sat down together last spring to discuss our program and share how our resources and personnel would be able to help Mia succeed. I feel it is paramount to note that without LSEM and its donors, Mia would not have had the opportunity to join her sister at our school and experience the wonderful and unique Christian education that our Lutheran school has to offer.

Starting out the school year, our initial agreed upon goal was to keep Mia in the classroom as much as possible by utilizing modifications to help her succeed, and then have her come down to me daily for assisted support in reading, writing, and spelling. Strategies implemented by her classroom teacher include allowing extra time to finish homework assignments without being penalized, allowing certain assignments to be completed in groups rather than independently, modifying assignments to ensure success on Mia's part, and providing copies of notes so that the material she uses to review is accurate and complete. She was also provided a set of textbooks to keep at home eliminating the challenge of remembering to bring home the resources necessary to do that

evening's homework. In math, she is allowed to use a reference page with hints or facts as an aid to help her master new concepts. Also, in spelling (a challenge area), Mia takes the tests with her classmates although her scores are not factored into her grade. Finally, because memorizing is a challenge for Mia, she either recites the Bible verse to me (we practice it using motions and inflections), or I'll prepare it as a fill in the blank. She participates in my accelerated reading program derived from Reading A to Z that allows her to contribute earned points towards her class quarterly goal. This is also reduced for Mia so that she may achieve her goal while keeping up with her daily workload. In addition, she comes down to have tests read to her so that she is assessed on her content knowledge and not her ability to read fluently.

Through the use of these accommodations and modifications, Mia has performed very well and has been able to comprehend the material she is learning. When being assessed, she shows a strong level of confidence and conviction in her answers. Her work ethic is excellent. She gives 100% everyday even when tasks involve a great deal of rewriting. I truly feel that by working together—parents, teachers, and LSEM—we are able to meet Mia's needs and provide the opportunity for her to learn and master the material that all other 4th graders are covering here at Trinity in a nonintrusive manner resulting in a positive level of achievement.