

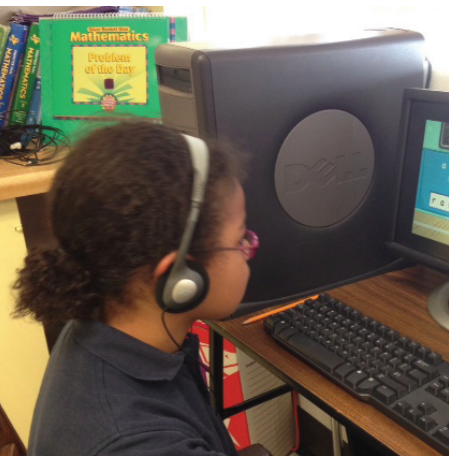


the Advocate

Summer 2013

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

Utilizing God's Gifts of Technology in the Classroom



With the advancements and access to technology there are so many educational tools that are available to our LSEM teachers throughout the country. [Kendell Blake](#) and [Sharon Messmann](#), special education teachers at [St. Paul Lutheran School in Fort Worth, Texas](#) share their experience with Lexia — a

powerful learning program that is an effective solution in the classroom in elevating proficiency levels. Here's their story:

Thank you to our donors for allowing us to purchase Lexia! "What is Lexia?" you ask. Lexia is an online computer software program that targets reading development for at risk students.

As reading specialists that work with children who have learning differences, it is essential to have in place a reading program that is aimed at teaching reading skills in a different and more focused way to help students become good readers. It is very important that the reading program is an intervention that is research based with data that proves its success. Research based interventions include focusing on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. Lexia is such a program. At St. Paul Lutheran School in Fort Worth, Texas, all students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are monitored through assessments such as DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills). Early identification of students who need

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Sharing
God's love
with
children
who have
learning
needs since
1873.



From The President



Late Summer, beginning of Fall always sort of has that New Years feeling. The fun and Summer vacations begin to wind down and the kids are excited (hopefully) to begin a new school year. It's a fresh start and it's a transition.

New teachers. Perhaps even new students or schools. As students look forward to new scenery and more challenging school subjects, we at LSEM also naturally experience a transition from school year to school year.

This upcoming year is no different. Transition is top-of-mind for our staff, our educators and the students and families we serve. Transition is something we expect and prepare ourselves for. It's wrapped with a very healthy and faith-based dose of hope. Hope that our teachers will continue to be able to deliver at their highest possible level. Hope that we're able to continue to show our worthiness to our donor family. But most importantly we have faith that our Lord will continue to provide and to guide.

We're excited about the coming school year. There are lots of exciting things happening at LSEM. We have so much to be thankful for and we continue to ask for your help and prayerful consideration to our ministry. Whether it's through a financial gift or through volunteering, everyone at LSEM appreciates everyone's efforts. Nothing is insignificant.

Every year is a little different and if you look at our full body of work since we were founded in 1873 you know that change isn't anything that scares us. We assure you that while we've had to make some difficult decisions in how we carry out our mission and vision I want you to know that we will continue to provide quality special education programs and services to children with learning needs one child at a time.

Dance with Jesus



Quenched by the water! The theme for this year's LWML convention, in Pittsburgh.

iCAN Program Awarded Grant

LSEM received some great news this Summer during the Lutheran Women's Missionary League's biennial convention in Pittsburgh. Our iCAN after school/ summer program, which was created last year to serve at-risk, inner city children with learning needs,



was awarded a \$99,000 mission grant.

We are truly honored, blessed and proud to be recognized by the LWML and share the honor with so

many other worthy organizations and ministries. With this grant the iCAN program will continue to thrive and grow. There are so many more children that we can serve in this capacity! More than half of the students in these at-risk areas are scoring below proficiency levels in reading and mathematics and without support like this we aren't able to reach out and bring the love of Christ to at-risk youth.

Thank you to the delegates who found it in their hearts to vote to help fund our iCAN program.

Winterstein Named Development Director

If you're looking for someone to go out and strengthen relationships with donors you probably can't find anyone better capable than Tim Winterstein. LSEM is excited to announce that Tim has become the ministries Director of Development. In this role he'll be crossing the country thanking, informing and re-connecting with long-time donors.



"I like to talk," said Tim as he was concluding a two-week trip throughout Texas where he met with donors and school principals. "And our ministry is something that I really enjoy talking about."

Tim's focus is on showing people how the money they're donating is used by the ministry and the impact it's having on the children, their families and community.

"We're very respectful of everything that comes in to us. Every cent we put right towards the kids." That's a message that Tim wants to reiterate during every phone call or visit.

Join us in welcoming Tim into this new role. LSEM is excited about what he has to offer for our ministry.

An Open House Leads to Open Arms

You never know when a connection will be made. God certainly has a way of placing us in the right place at the right time. At a recent open house at one of our schools, Cindy Roy, an LSEM, teacher was approached by a young woman who attended there as a child. Now, as a young mom, she was looking into enrolling her own child.

After Roy informed her that she was the resource teacher, the mom asked if she had a moment to talk. She went on to tell her that she was the mother of a three-year-old with Down Syndrome. In preparing for her child to begin pre-school, she had contacted the local public school system's special education department. During her conversation with an administrator there, she stated that she had hoped to send her little one to a Lutheran school, but didn't think that was an option.

Much to the mom's surprise, the public school representative asked if she had looked into the Lutheran school. The representative spoke very highly of the LSEM resource room and was very familiar with the program. She added that the students transitioned well from there into the public system. She highly recommended that she talk to LSEM before making any decisions.

Thanks to our strong LSEM program, the woman's child is now enrolled in our Pre-School program for the 2013-2014 school year.

Without the support, materials, and training opportunities provided by LSEM, many students would not be able to attend Christian schools. Roy, along with so many on our team, is grateful to be able to serve in this ministry and looks forward to working with this mother and her child.

Parents who desire a Christian education for their children with special learning needs can find it through LSEM



Thank You to the West Macomb Chapter of **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans** for sponsoring our outing!

LSEM President, Jim Krone, with Thrivent's Jeanie Branch.



Another Great LSEM Golf Outing!

Our 8th annual golf outing was a success — raising over \$11,000. And, as you can tell from the photos...it was also a lot of fun! Thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers and golfers who made this another great fundraising event and opportunity for us to get together golf and fellowship at the Greystone Golf Club on a gorgeous Summer day! If you would like to help out or sponsor next year's outing, please contact us!



Utilizing God's Gifts of Technology in the Classroom



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extra literacy instruction helps students become proficient readers. The Step Up to Reading program through LSEM provides that individual and focused instruction catered to the specific academic needs of the student.

So how does Lexia fit into our Step Up to Reading program? Students are able to log onto the Lexia software online and work on lessons specifically geared to the skills they need assistance with. The screens are colorful and fun and the lessons are individualized and advance students to higher levels as they demonstrate proficiency with a particular skill. The students love it because they can track their progress (parents like it too because we send home parent reports).

As teachers, we can access Lexia Lessons which are teacher-led direct skill instruction lesson plans. We can also access Lexia Skill Builders, which are worksheets for students that offer more opportunities to practice and reinforce skills that need mastery. This is a great teacher resource.

Has Lexia replaced teacher led instruction? Never! We see most of our students 120 minutes per week. Our students spend about 30-40 of those minutes on Lexia. What do we do the other 75 to 90 minutes? Most days our reading lessons target phonics (how language works) and we are reading great books, focusing on fluency and comprehension.

Lexia is a great tool that the students love that helps target needed skills! We have used Lexia for four months now and we can already see progress in our students. It is a joy to work in our Lutheran Schools where children learn about Jesus every day! Thanks to our donors, your support is making a difference!

Scan the QR codes with your mobile device or visit www.luthsped.org to view videos of St. Paul Ft. Worth students retelling children's stories.



Ways to Help...

Pray

Ask God for His grace and love as He works through our teachers, staff, families and children.

Fundraising

Our golf outing and the Campbell's Labels for Education Program are some of our biggest fundraisers.

Volunteer

Office tasks, bundling Campbell Soup labels or helping out in the classroom, there are so many ways in which you can volunteer.

Donate

There are a variety of donations that are given through:

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

To Learn more contact our development department at extension 108.

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

THANK YOU!

\$2,300

That's what it takes to help **1** child annually.

There are several programs at LSEM designed to help children with learning needs. While our one-on-one direct services have the strongest and longest-lasting impact on the children we serve, our iCAN programs, testing and screening capabilities and general consultations all make up a significant portion of our programs.

How can **you** help the children through our ministry? Your **prayers, gifts** and **time** allow us to provide the Christian-based guidance and instruction to all students, their families and Christian communities across the country?