



# the Advocate

Winter 2016

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

## Former LSEM Student Uses Her Experience to Help Others

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*Katie talks with a student at Lutheran High North, where she is completing her required hours towards a Masters Degree in Counseling*

Katie Bowden has found her niche. Describing herself as “calm on the outside but a storm on the inside,” she was diagnosed with inattentive-type ADHD when she was in third grade at St. Peter, Macomb (Michigan). Throughout her time at St. Peter, her family struggled to find what worked best for her learning. In eighth grade, she was placed with LSEM teacher, **Karyn Anspach**, who provided additional resources to her as she worked to graduate and move on to Lutheran High School North in Macomb, Michigan.

As a student at St. Peter Macomb, Katie was not familiar with LSEM at the time, but remembers Karyn and the resources she provided as “fun but didn’t make me feel labeled as a ‘special ed’ student.” Her curiosity and love of learning continued at Lutheran High North where she received some assistance with her classes, mostly from understanding teachers who wanted to see her succeed. It was during her senior year when she began to suffer from depression that she started to explore her calling.

“When I graduated, I attended Macomb Community College where I took psychology classes to learn more about depression and mental health. A couple of years later I was struggling to find out what type of career I wanted to pursue. I looked back on my college transcript and discovered that the classes I loved the most and was most interested were in the area of psychology.”

Katie completed her time at Macomb Community College and went on to Rochester College where she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. She then learned of the master’s program at Spring Arbor University, a small university located in mid-Michigan with satellite locations across the state. It didn’t take long for Katie to decide to pursue a double master’s degree in school counseling and mental health.

Katie is now on her path to becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor. Before she gets there she must complete

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*Katie with Mia, a current student of Mrs. Anspach at St. Peter*



A message from **Stacy Hoeft, President & CEO of LSEM**

# So Much Change!

Change. What feelings does that word invoke in you? Fear? Anxiety? Discomfort? Excitement? Anticipation? Interest? I find it interesting that a simple, one-syllable word can cause such an array of emotions in the hearts of even the most stable people. Lutherans are especially notorious for their feelings about change. Remember the old joke? "How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb? None...Lutherans don't believe in change!"

As you can imagine, many of the students we serve thrive on predictable, unchanging environments. Our teachers work tirelessly to provide settings where our students who have a difficult time with change can learn and grow. However, we recognize that while we may not always embrace it, we live in a world where change is inevitable, so we also need to give our students the tools to cope with and manage their ever-changing world. How awesome it is that we can assure them when things are uncertain they can rely on God to walk with them through those clouds of uncertainty. Malachi 3:6 reminds us, "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."



LSEM is no stranger to change and has experienced a lot of it in the last six months! We have seen a change in leadership, additions to programs and services, and a shift in responsibilities for some of our employees. Even though the uncertainty of change can sometimes cause our hearts to be restless, we can rest in the assurance that we serve a God who does not and will never change. His promises are certain and as we continue to honor Him with our service He will continue to bless our efforts.

Whatever change you may be experiencing in your life – whether you are embracing it or fearing it, may it lead you back to the cross and to the eternal promises of a Savior who walks the path with us. Praise God for knowing what is best for us and helping us navigate through the many changes in our lives!

Blessings

*Stacy Hoeft*

Stacy J. Hoeft

Friday,  
June 17, 2016  
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 &  
beverages

**\$20** — Dinner only



**11<sup>th</sup>**  
annual

**20 GOLF OUTING 16**

WestWynd Golf Course • June 17

**Be a sponsor...  
register to golf...  
support LSEM!**

It's one of our most popular events and this year will be no different! We return to the WestWynd Golf Course for our 11th Annual Golf Outing.

We hope you join us. Get your team together and register today! 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/2016golfouting](http://luthsped.org/2016golfouting) or contact us at 248-419-3390.

## Remembering Former Board Member, Al Helland

LSEM regretfully reports the passing of one of its former board members, Al Helland. Mr. Helland passed away on October 16, 2015, in Livonia, Michigan.

An affable, loving man, Al led a life of service to God and his community. As an executive with National Bank of Detroit, where he worked for many years, he was a valued leader and coworker. Mr. Helland served on LSEM's board of trustees for over 20 years, and was the author of many policies and documents governing LSEM's work.



Al was married to his wife, Esther, for 62 years, and was a loving father to six children, a proud grandfather of 18 and great-grandfather of 11. When announcing his passing to LSEM staff, former LSEM Executive Director, Pastor Rodney Rynearson, described him as "delightfully humble... Al was a true servant of the Lord."

"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O Children of Jacob, are not consumed." **Malachi 3:6**



# LSEM Teacher Hosts Literacy Night in Fort Wayne, IN

Fort Wayne's **Tiffany Herman** added the LSEM touch to Ascension Lutheran Church and School's celebration of this year's National Lutheran School Week. With the help of a Thrivent Action Team grant, Tiffany hosted a Literacy Night during the last week of January. Celebrated local author, **Helen Frost**, was on hand to speak and sign autographs.

Leading up to the event, the teachers did a novel unit with their students centered on Frost's book, *Monarch and Milkweed*, and produced projects based on those lessons.

The student's projects were displayed on the big night, while Frost spoke about the inspiration for her book, which are her own efforts to help the Monarch Butterflies. She highlighted the importance of Milkweed and the life cycle of a Monarch Caterpillar/Butterfly and explained her writing process. She then answered questions from the audience. The evening was capped off by a sneak peak on her new book and she then signed autographs.

Proceeds from the sale of Frost's books, as well as Thrivent Action Team funds, raised \$320, which will be used to purchase new books for Ascension's library.



## A Perfect Storm

by **Kathy Martin, Mayer Lutheran High School, Mayer, MN**

LSEM is a blessing in many ways. Specifically, it allowed a perfect storm to take place at Mayer Lutheran High School. When thinking of a perfect storm, pictures of destruction and damage might come to mind, this is a different kind of perfect storm.

There was a freshman who came to Mayer Lutheran in 2013 with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This meant the public schools had done evaluations and interviews to determine there was an educational need for mandatory intervention. This student was burdened with the labels of Attention Deficit Disorder, Anxiety and Emotional Behavioral Disorder. There were many "goals" written into the IEP about how to address and work through these issues. What this student needed most, though, was not written into the IEP: daily chapel, praise and worship, weekly meetings with a peer devotion group, courses digging into the Christian faith for deeper understanding, faculty prayers, teacher concern for spiritual matters, as well as academics, matters, as well as academics, the feeling of security and belonging in a safe, Christ-focused environment. These are some of the factors which, I believe, led to the "perfect storm."

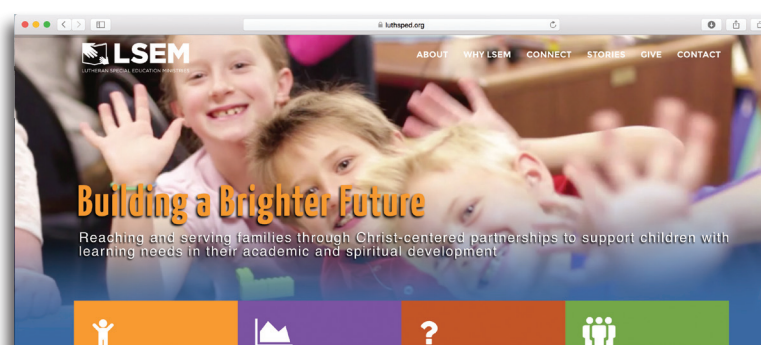
"One of my best days as a teacher, was when I was able to explain that the label of "special education" had been dropped, removed, wiped away."

About two months ago, the student was due for re-evaluation, which happens every three years. At the conclusion of the lengthy process it was determined that special education services were no longer necessary! One of my best days as a teacher, was when I was able to explain that the label of "special education" had been dropped, removed, wiped away. "I'm normal?" the student asked. My emphatic response was, "Yes, you are!"

What did this perfect storm produce? A student who is diligent with classwork, kind, respectful, funny and inquisitive. One who enjoys chapel, listens and asks questions, growing in faith. The ingredients for this perfect storm? A student and family choosing Mayer Lutheran High School, LSEM providing services and resources through a teacher such as myself and all the intangible qualities of faith in Christ. Jesus looked at them and said... "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." **Matthew 19:26**

## Our New Website!

Take a moment and visit our new and improved website...

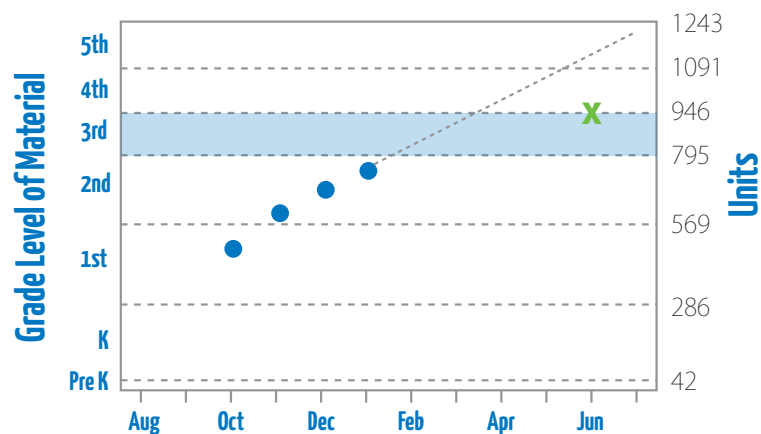


## LSEM Teachers Report Fantastic Results from Lexia Program

LSEM teacher, **Donna Stole**, recently shared a story about the progress one of her students made thanks to the Lexia program — a research-proven, technology-based approach that accelerates reading skills development, predicts students' year-end performance and provides teachers data-driven action plans to help differentiate instruction.

The use of Lexia in LSEM classrooms is funded through the generosity of our friends and supporters. Donna's enthusiasm and endorsement of how she has been able to use this technology to help her students can be read through her testimonial, here:

"The above chart is the current Lexia Reading CORE5 progress chart of one of my third grade students. You may have students achieving at a similar rate, which is very exciting! I share it to show the potential of this wonderful program when students are committed and encouraged to complete their recommended weekly goal, not only by us, but also by their classroom teachers and parents. I commend this child's teacher and parents. . . for prioritizing the value of this program, as they consistently have him work on Lexia, both in the classroom and at home, and he is reaping the rewards! As you can see, he is well on his way to reading at or above grade level by the end of the school year! I'm hoping to use this chart to share with other parents, in hopes that they, too, will emphasize Lexia's use at home. I'm very thankful that LSEM has licensed this worthwhile program!"



## Former LSEM Student Uses Her Experience to Help Others *continued from page 1*

600 hours of hands-on learning in a school setting, and 300 hours in a mental health setting. Right now, she is learning a lot about middle schoolers at Kennedy Middle School in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. She remarks, "so many kids are hurting, and need our help. I didn't realize how great the need was until I got there." She wants to help every child she reaches know their learning style and was amazed at their use of technology to help students who, like her, learn differently. She is also eager to return to Lutheran North in January, where she will complete her school

training.

Katie readily admits that she struggled to get where she is today, but discovering her learning style has made all the difference. For her, knowledge is not found in large textbooks full of words but rather in a rather modern media: the internet. She will often skim chapters in her class textbooks, then seek out an instructional video on YouTube to increase her knowledge of the subject matter. For her, this has transformed her learning and helps her process the information she needs for her education. "My mind is always going a million

miles a minute, and I will often read the same paragraph over and over again. I can focus on a video and learn exactly what I need to learn."

Katie is a shining example of a person who has transformed their personal challenges with learning differently to help others. She is excited to help future students and clients find their own learning style to be successful. When asked by a current LSEM student and parent what advice she would give, her response was "find your niche. Everyone learns differently so find out how you do and hang on to that. It will be trial and error but you will get there!"

## 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 ext. 104.

To donate, use the enclosed envelope or visit online at

**[www.luthsped.org](http://www.luthsped.org)**

**THANK YOU!**

## Honor & Memorial Gifts

Honor and Memorial cards are available in our office. Upon receiving your gift, we forward the card and your message to the individual(s) you are recognizing through your donation.

