

# the Advocate

Summer 2021

Advancing the success of children who have learning needs.



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

## Navigating through the pandemic: our faith played the most important role

The demands of this past year have depleted most of our energy reserves. While none of us have experience with a worldwide pandemic, as adults we were able to draw on other life experiences to cope with most of what came our way. However, consider how difficult this must have been for young students – especially our resource room students! Our students already have difficulty with transitions (especially unexpected ones) and thrive on routine. Nothing about this past year was routine.

Thankfully LSEM was able to provide constant support and created some consistency for our students, allowing them to find success even during the pandemic. Still, there were a great many other students, particularly in public schools who suffered from substantial learning loss. Many Christian schools are seeing an influx of students coming from the public schools after parents saw how well the Christian schools did during the pandemic. As a result, LSEM partnerships are growing as more Christian schools reach out to us for assistance in addressing learning loss and the other learning needs of their new students.

Our nearly 150 years of experience dealing with the most vulnerable students has given us the opportunity to serve thousands of students every year. Our reputation as the “go-to” experts in special education means that our partnerships have grown in a huge way. We’re very proud of this growth and look forward to serving many more students. However, new programs mean new expenses for things like materials, resources, and other special tools our teachers need in their classrooms.

That’s where the generous gifts of people like you come in! With your help we can address learning loss and assist our students in learning how to cope with all that life throws their way. Most importantly we can equip them with the most important tool of all – THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST! I know my faith played a major role in getting through the pandemic and other stressful moments in my life.

Helping students develop a relationship with Jesus will make them successful in life and more importantly give them the assurance of eternal life in heaven! Now that sounds like an awesome investment to me! Thank you for all you do to support and encourage our ministry. We are so thankful for YOU!!

*Stacy Hoeft*





# God's work. Always Working

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*"LSEM teachers have been and will continue to be instrumental in planning and implementing this support at their partnership school."*

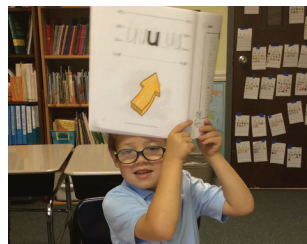
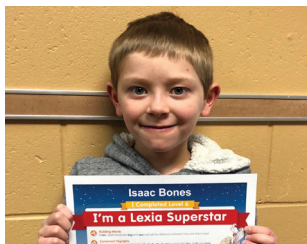
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LSEM teachers continued to provide high quality specialized learning services for students whether it was in-person or virtually, and many of our teachers were providing both in-person and distance learning options to reach all the students who needed support.

Learning loss as a result of school closures from the spring of 2020 because a focus as the school year ended and as we planned for the upcoming year. Information is beginning to become available on how students have been performing academically over the last year compared to previous years, and schools are taking this information to plan support for students who

do not need special education services, but additional support to fill learning gaps. LSEM teachers have been and will continue to be instrumental in planning and implementing this support at their partnership school. Our teachers not only provide academic assistance to students with diagnosed learning challenges but to students who need additional support because of the differences in education over the last eighteen months.

We see this upcoming year as an opportunity for our teachers to impact even more students and assist our partnership schools to address the current challenges in education.



# What can we do about learning loss?

In the aftermath of the pandemic, LSEM is being asked to help students in Christian schools who are experiencing learning loss. One of our challenges at LSEM will be to find the financial resources to provide additional classroom resources for all our new students. Thank you for your support and for all you continue to do for children who have learning needs.

## Ways to keep HELPING...

- 1 Participate in our "5 for the 5000" online summer fundraiser
- 2 Support our September 17th LSEM Golf Outing
- 3 Remember LSEM on Giving Tuesday - November 30th
- 4 Mark your calendar for our December 2nd Christmas Tea
- 5 Connect LSEM with your AmazonSmile, Thrivent Choice, Kroger rewards programs
- 6 Share the great things our teachers are doing with others in your network
- 7 Make use of corporate gift-matching options
- 8 Consider including LSEM in your estate plan

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## ATTENTION PRINCIPALS

**Take Advantage of EANS** For more information on how LSEM can benefit your students and to learn how to use your EANS grant to start or expand your program, please contact **Richard Schumacher** at [rschumacher@luthsped.org](mailto:rschumacher@luthsped.org) or call 248-419-3390 x3.



**Give A Gift TODAY!**



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## Programs and Services

LSEM's Programs & Services team have been busier than ever this summer. Thanks to a federal grant providing non-public schools with funding designed to combat learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many schools have started new programs or expanded their current LSEM programs. This has led to one of the highest single year increases of LSEM programs in our history! As a result, we have been busy hiring teachers and preparing schools for their new programs set to launch in the fall of 2021.

Another new initiative has been our first Virtual Teachers Conference. On August 9, 2021, the conference brought together nationally known special education speakers who provided useful information on ways classroom teachers can better serve their students with learning needs.

Finally, with the restrictions on travel and gathering sizes being lifted across the country, our team is preparing for a return to the road. Once again, we will be visiting our schools, observing our teachers, providing professional development, and exhibiting at teacher conferences.

## 16th Annual LSEM Golf Outing September 17, 2021

All proceeds will benefit children with learning needs.  
To register or learn more about sponsorship opportunities visit [luthsped.org/2021-lsem-golf-outing](http://luthsped.org/2021-lsem-golf-outing)



**LSEM**  
LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES

**2021 TEACHER  
CONFERENCE**

## Thanks to all participating teachers

Our inaugural virtual teachers conference was a huge success! If you missed it, that is okay, visit [luthsped.org/2021-teacher-conference](http://luthsped.org/2021-teacher-conference) to register and gain access to the recorded sessions. If you attended you can use your login information to re-watch sessions.

### SPEAKER TOPICS INCLUDED:

- From Inclusion to Belonging
- The State of Special Education
- What Sticks? Lasting Changes in Special Education After the Pandemic
- The Brain on Stress: How trauma affects teaching and learning
- SEL and PBIS: Design for School Year Ahead
- Engaging Students During Classroom Instruction: Real Examples for Teachers
- Simple Practices for Managing Classrooms While Teaching
- Language Matters!



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