

The Deaf Child's ADVOCATE

Lutheran School for the Deaf — Detroit, Michigan 48234-2983

GOD'S CHALLENGE

God has answered our prayer.

What prayer is answered?

Many people, including myself, have prayed: "God, why does a child have to go so far away from home to receive an appropriate education when she/he is deaf?"

God's answer to that prayer is both a blessing and a challenge. Through a Federal law (94-142) God has answered the prayer, making every home (public) school responsible for deaf (and all handicapped) children. That is a magnificent blessing.

But it is also a challenge, since the children will now need to get their CHRISTIAN education from their home churches. In response to that part of the challenge, read about Ephphatha Institute on the next page. With your help, we will continue to be an Advocate to help congregations respond to this challenge.

With mainstreaming occurring, what should the Deaf School do?

We received many good suggestions and thought carefully about them. We noticed however, that God has not yet relieved us of our obligation as *The Deaf Child's Advocate*. We continue to have some children come here for our Pre-school through High School education program. Some are from foreign nations. Some are from rural areas. Some are from major cities where the public school program is not appropriate to their needs.

Then we heard a challenge from one of God's children:

"WHY DOES THE LUTHERAN CHURCH SAY: 'HANDICAPPED CHILDREN DON'T NEED TO LEARN ABOUT JESUS IN A CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL'?"

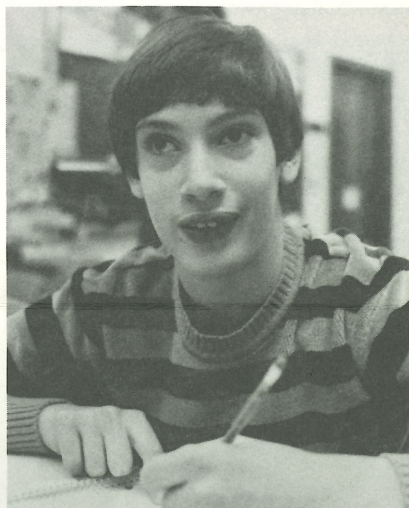
The statement isn't true, the Lutheran church has never said that. But take a minute to feel the pain of the person who asked the question. Ask why she raised the challenge. Lutheran schools have said, "We don't have qualified staff. We don't have enough money. We aren't trained to teach handicapped children." The mother, caught in pain by our inconsistency of encouraging Christian day schools and not helping handicapped children, probably heard us more clearly than we heard ourselves.

Someone said, "I HEAR THAT THERE ARE HEARING STUDENTS AT THE DETROIT DEAF SCHOOL."

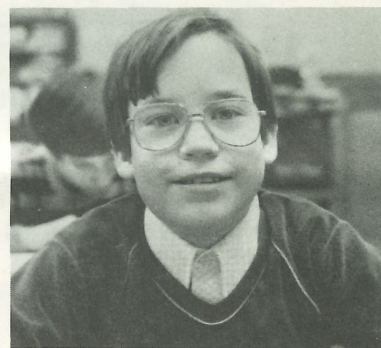
You heard correctly that there are handicapped students at the Detroit Deaf school who can hear. We have many "uncommon" students. There are students with specific learning disabilities who can't read one-third as well as our deaf students. There are educably mentally retarded students who want to learn more about Jesus as they learn about God's world. And there are "gifted" students whose only handicap is that we have forced them to use one talent like the rest of us and thereby turned them off to using the many talents God has given them.

We changed. You have made it possible for us to respond to God's challenge by continuing the old (the Deaf School), expanding the ministry to help congregations (Ephphatha Institute), helping other handicapped children in the Detroit area (read the article on page 3), and expanding that ministry to Chicago (at their invitation) and elsewhere through Ephphatha Institute.

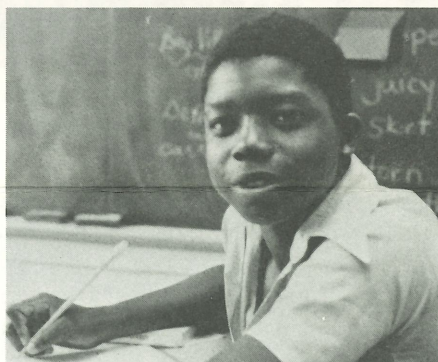
But this can only happen if you, the supporters of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, continue to join with us in response to God's challenge to help His "uncommon" (handicapped) children learn to know more about him through Lutheran Day Schools.



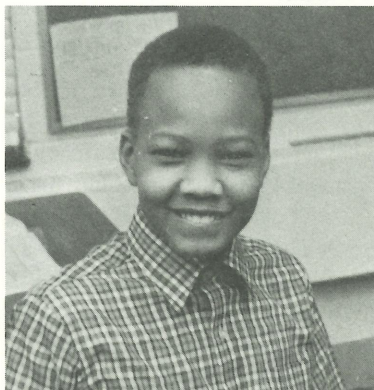
Scott came to us to learn of Jesus. He can hear, but has "uncommon" needs. His Lutheran elementary school asked for help in meeting Scott's needs — both educationally and spiritually.



Tim, like Scott, needs a special teaching method to best meet his needs and reach his potential. We pray the programs designed for him will continue to give him confidence and success.



John is deaf. He has a profound hearing loss and needs the full-time support of a curriculum built around the knowledge that Christ died for all.



Terrick reflects the joy that comes from mastering a new skill.

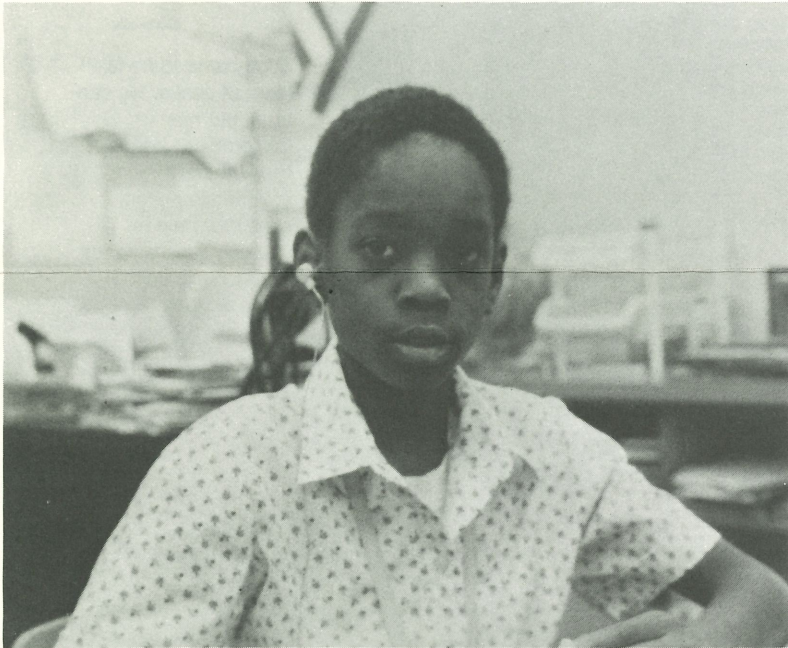


The Lutheran School for the Deaf (Detroit)

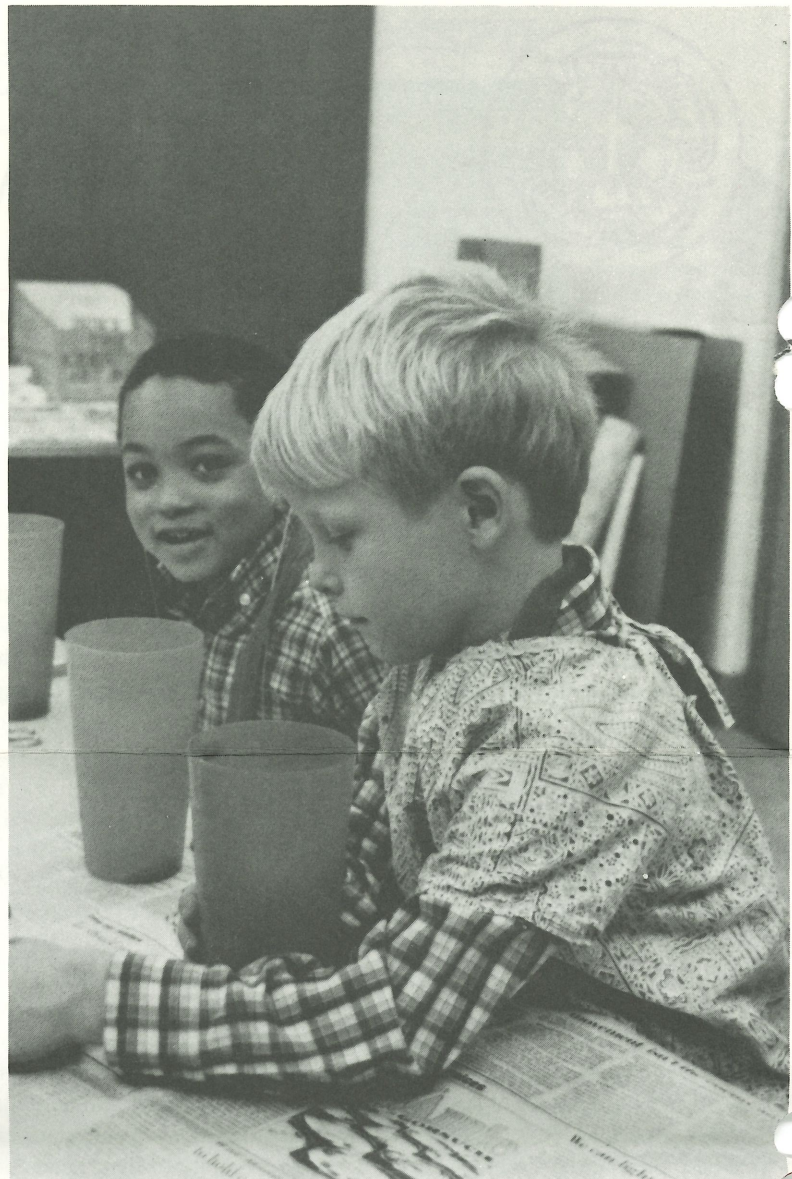
The need continues. We have received eight new deaf students this year. Three of the students come from outside the USA (The Bahamas, Canada, and Nigeria).

The school is still primarily an *oral* school during the school day. Each child is encouraged to use his/her residual hearing, to lip-read, to speak, to read, and to write. Our houseparents are deaf and in the dorms the students will learn good signs. Our second goal is to teach communication skills to each child so that she/he can choose appropriate ways to communicate.

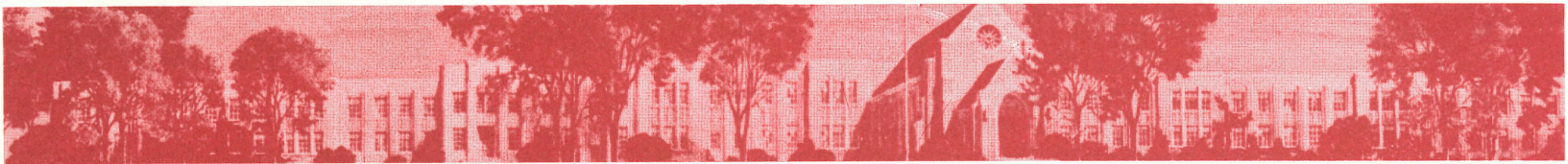
Our primary goal is to help each deaf child experience God's law and gospel so that she/he will confess their faith in Jesus Christ as their living Lord and the center of all their daily activities.



Bonawu is deaf. His family lives in suburban Detroit but are natives of Liberia. Bonawu lives in our dormitory and thereby can learn from his deaf housefather good American signs. In class, his language level is increasing daily.



Joseph and DeAndre learn cooperation and sharing.



Ephphatha Institute

The word "Ephphatha" comes from Mark 7:34, the story of Jesus and the Deaf man. The word is a Hebrew word which means "to open or to be open."

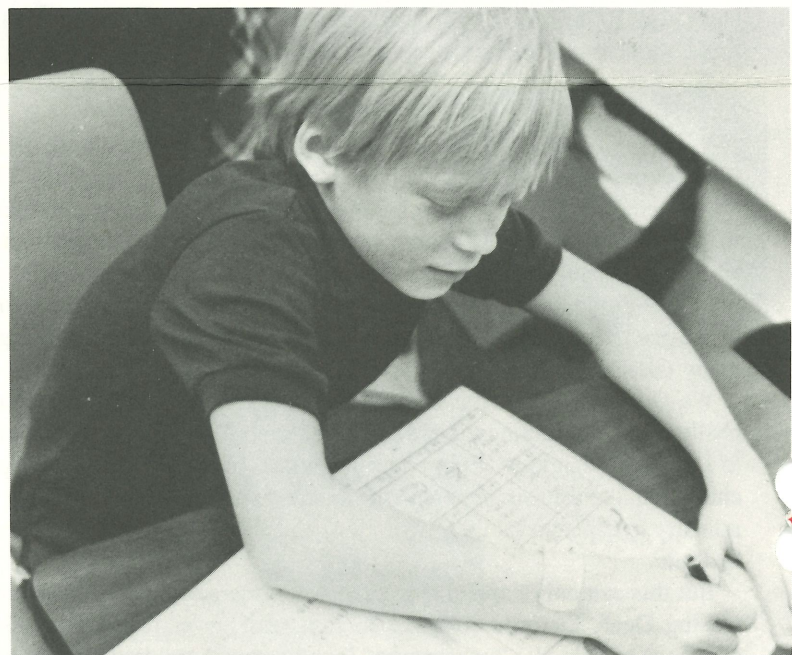
For years, the Deaf Child's Advocate has encouraged us "to be open" to assist God's children who can't hear to learn more about Jesus as their Lord and Savior. More than 1000 individuals have been confirmed here.

The challenge changes as more deaf children receive their education in public schools. There is now a much greater possibility that there is a deaf person near your church who will learn about Jesus only if you and your congregation attempts to help.

The Lutheran School for the Deaf (Detroit) is establishing Ephphatha Institute to assist you in that valuable ministry. Ephphatha Institute will work in two areas: Inservice training and suggesting curriculum materials.

For congregations seeking to work with deaf persons (or other "uncommon" individuals), we would like to be a resource center. Ask us and we will (continue) to help you find appropriate curricular materials to assist you in your goal of sharing Jesus. We will suggest religious materials. If feasible, we will help you receive training to use the materials.

For schools interested in working more with "uncommon" students, ask and we will try to help you with training and materials so that you can more effectively share Jesus' love through teaching "handicapped" students.



Eddie works in an uncommon classroom where the children come first. No child is denied the opportunity to succeed. Work progresses at a rate that enables the student to learn best.

DETROIT LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Since its founding in 1873, the school has provided classes for deaf children on its Detroit campus. In recent years, the program has expanded to include learning disabled, mentally retarded and gifted children.

In answer to a need of congregations and schools as well as parents and their children, we now provide services to children away from our own building. These satellite classrooms are staffed by our licensed teachers. They provide individualized services to children identified as needing help in succeeding in school.

These satellites are located, at present, throughout the greater Detroit area. Please join in asking God's blessing on the expanding ministry as we move to bring the programs of the school to children who need them and can benefit from them.

Present Satellite Locations:

St. Peter's Lutheran School, East Detroit, MI
Lutheran High School East, Harper Woods, MI
Holy Cross Lutheran School, Detroit, MI
St. Paul Lutheran School, Farmington Hills, MI
Trinity Lutheran School, Utica, MI

CHICAGO LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION

In 1983 the Lutheran School for the Deaf received an invitation from the Northern Illinois District to join with them in the study of the needs for special education programs in the greater Chicago area. After much study, prayer, and consideration, the Board of Directors of the Lutheran School for the Deaf has authorized implementation of direct services to the children enrolled in Lutheran schools in the greater Chicago area.

In the fall of 1984 seven schools will be the site of classes for learning disabled children. These children will be identified through referral and evaluation programs conducted in the Chicago

area. These children will be placed in programs appropriate to their individual needs with an individual educational plan developed. Each child will progress at his own rate toward his own goals. As he progresses, he will have the opportunity for integration into regular school programs in the housing school.

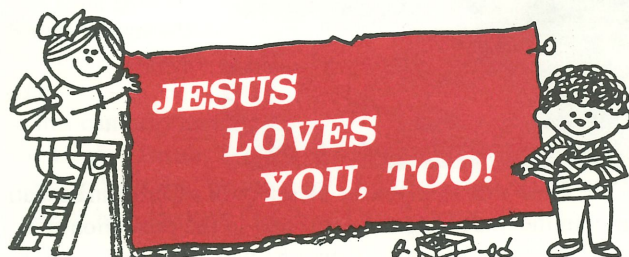
We pray that the Lord will richly bless this program as He has our programs in Detroit so that more and more children may not only learn how to learn, but to learn more importantly about Jesus and the gift that He has given them through His life, death, and resurrection.

"What does it cost to get services from the Deaf School?"

Parents (and other people) often ask that question. If you divide our total budget by the number of students we formally serve, the answer is \$6,713.33. That is not a very good answer though because we serve some students 3 or 4 hours a week and others 168 hours each week. Obviously it costs much more to feed and house the residential students. We rejoice that God permits us to serve many day students and part-time mainstreamed students so that our costs can go down.

No matter how you play with the figures, there really is only one answer: A LOT. It cost Christ A LOT to save me: His life. Because Christians rejoice in His forgiving love, they give A LOT to praise God and help some of his "uncommon" (handicapped) children experience that love through Christian day school education. Parents should expect to pay A LOT (not all) since God gave the child directly to them for their care. And Christians will help A LOT because we want to share Christ's love with "uncommon"

children and their parents. Thanks to each one of the donors whose very significant gift helps us share A LOT of Jesus' love.



Sherri studies.

JOSEPH



Joseph is a 5-year-old deaf child who comes to the Lutheran School for the Deaf to receive not only a Christian education but to receive the nurture and love of the staff at the Lutheran School for the Deaf.

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LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION

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God Answered
Our Prayer —
with a challenge
that is both
unchanged and
changing.

THE DONOR

The donor and supporter of the Lutheran School for the Deaf is the key to the success of the ministry here at the school. Without the faithful donors who remember the children at our school regularly, this ministry would not be possible.



The assembly of the Lutheran Ladies Auxiliary for the Deaf represents the continuation of support throughout our history of our faithful donors. Many donors note in their gifts that they have supported us for years. Praise be to God for these faithful servants.

We thank God for the many blessings that have become reality here at the school and in the lives of the children because of the faithfulness of these people. We pray that God will shower His blessings upon them and continue to make them fruitful in His kingdom. We pray that others would be moved to share their blessings with our children and in so doing bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to these the least of His.

Carrie is from Chicago and came to Detroit for a Christian education. Her loving housemother, who is a hearing lady, states firmly that Carrie has progressed remarkably in spite of a severe hearing and learning problem.



Jeremy reflects the joy of knowing Jesus and sharing that joy with others.

The child who receives the blessings of a Christian education can grow in the knowledge of Jesus and in the protection of the Holy Spirit. May our heavenly Father be with them and bless them and keep them forever in His protection.