

The Deaf Child's ADVOCATE

Volume 54, Issue 3

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

September, 1984

Back to School — Doors Open for 112th year —

Detroit

Through the blessings of God, the staff at the Lutheran School for the Deaf has prepared for the 112th school year. Projected enrollment for the opening of this school year is 164.

Past issues of the *Deaf Child's Advocate* have told how the Lutheran School for the Deaf ministry has changed and broadened its base throughout the past year. Programs at the Detroit campus include deaf children, and also hearing children of various types.

Children who experience learning difficulties in regular programs can be referred to the Lutheran School for the Deaf. Teachers in regular schools, and parents, should be alerted to the fact that when children encounter reading difficulties in first and second grade, the time has come for referral and evaluation of the learning problem.

Our staff is experienced in evaluation of children and are able to work with parents and school officials in determining the most appropriate school placement for the child. If the programs at Lutheran School for the Deaf are not the appropriate ones, our staff will work with the parents and the school in locating appropriate programming. To date over 800 children have been evaluated at the school and were either enrolled in our programs or referred to other more appropriate agencies. In some cases, working with the principal and the classroom teacher of the referring school has brought about modification of the regular classroom program and the child can be accommodated in his home school.

Satellite classrooms are located throughout the Detroit and Chicago area and offer an opportunity for children to be referred to special teachers on either a part-time or full-time basis. This enables the children to remain with their friends and classmates and yet receive the specialized assistance that they need in order to make continued progress toward achievement at normal grade levels. Most often the problems of learning disabilities lie in the area of reading, but these can be in math, listening or writing as well.

Chicago Special Education

Beginning in the fall of 1984 staff members from the Lutheran School for the Deaf Detroit will be placed in Lutheran schools in the greater Chicagoland area. They will begin evaluation and special class work with children referred by area schools participating in this project in the school buildings of Chicago. Miss Joy Conrad will be the coordinator of the Chicago program and will be responsible for the supervision of referrals from the area schools in Chicago and the involvement of staff with children.

It is anticipated that through the 1984-85 school year the program will be directly involved in 7 school buildings in the greater Chicago area. Continued updating will occur in future issues of the *Deaf Child's Advocate*. Please remember this program in your prayers as we venture forth in answering the challenge that God has set before us.

Satellites

Continued growth in satellite programs in the greater Detroit area has enabled us to establish a new program at St. Paul's Lutheran School, Sterling Heights, Michigan. This program is in answer to requests of staff and parents of St. Paul's congregation, and the identification of several children in their student body who are in need of help. These parents were quite active in the implementation of this program guided by their principal and their pastor and in the provision of classroom space in this building.

The coordinated efforts of the staff from the Lutheran School for the Deaf, as well as the active participation of both parents and staff of St. Paul's enabled this program to get off the ground sooner than was anticipated. Such cooperation enables the challenge of providing such programs to be met more readily. We pray that God would be especially gracious to this program and that it would benefit many children this year.



Anxious students await opening bell at main entrance to the school.



Staff member Joy Conrad, coordinator of the Chicagoland program, will answer needs of staff assigned to new programs in the Northern Illinois District.



The Right Start



Pastor Clark Bailey poses with two 1984 confirmands, Philip Muhme and Tim Daugherty. Pastor Bailey of Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf teaches confirmation classes at the school.

Getting the 1984-85 school year off to a proper start involves many activities. The teaching staff meets for inservice training in August prior to the opening of school on the day after Labor Day. Teachers are involved in planning, scheduling, and comparing notes in regard to teaching methods. Students are able to move quickly into patterns of learning, and parents report a quick adjustment to the routines of the new school situation.

Confirmation instruction is a very important part of our learning process. Students in confirmation class learn the basic tenets of the Christian faith as taught by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Classroom teachers further reinforce these teachings in religion classes taught throughout the school day as part of the daily routine of a class schedule.

Dr. Herman Holste is the principal of the school. He is responsible for the day-to-day supervision of classroom instruction and handles parent questions as well as reinforcing the goals of the school in counseling students.



Christian flag and American flag over Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Utica, Michigan, site of one of our satellites.



Mrs. Diane Parker prepares lessons in her classroom. The teacher must daily evaluate achievement of each student and modify goals for the future.



Staff member Jim Pagels supervises students during "zero hour" — the period of time between arrival at school and beginning of classes. This assists parents who work and need to bring youngsters early.

Francis

During the 1983-84 school year a young man named Francis Anwana was a student at our school. Francis came to the school from Lagos, Nigeria, Africa. When Francis came to school, he was a happy boy who happened to be deaf. He came to us through contacts made through the Lutheran Laymen's League. His father works for Lutheran television in Nigeria, and the Aid Association for Lutherans and the Lutheran Laymen's League together helped to provide for his transportation to Detroit.

Initial plans called for Francis to stay in Detroit for 2 years without any trip home during that time. During January, 1984, an anonymous donor offered to make a significant gift specifically aimed at sending Francis home for the summer.

The local branch of the Aid Association for Lutherans and Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Detroit conducted several fund raising activities to assist further in Francis' transportation. Through a matching grant from A.A.L., Our Savior branch #3092 was able to provide the additional funds necessary to provide for Francis' travel back to Nigeria and his return to Detroit in September. This is another example of Christians working together for the benefit of a very special child.

Francis departed Detroit on June 11, 1984 for a summer at home in Nigeria. We pray that God will be with him and bring him back to us safely in September. We praise God for the help that came to us and to Francis through these very special friends of the school.

Our thanks to all who helped in this project for Francis.



Miss Nancy Niemeyer works with a student in a one-to-one diagnostic teaching situation. Here she can determine the achievement level of the student and develop the individualized program to meet his learning needs. This is a very common activity during the opening weeks of the school year.

Consider a Gift of . . .

From time to time we get calls at the school asking whether the school can use a gift of some type of equipment or supplies. The answer in most cases is yes. We would encourage people interested in supporting the school to look about them in their business or perhaps their home or their friends and consider a gift of art work, equipment such as good furniture, new bed linens, or new towels. If you are a businessman and have supplies which are in excess inventory such as cleaning supplies or kitchen equipment, please contact the school.