

The ADVOCATE

for Students with Special Learning Needs

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

At the time of this writing it has been three short weeks since assuming my new position. I'm truly in awe of the ministry of the Lutheran School for the Deaf and ask for your prayers for guidance and wisdom in our ministry here. I'm so excited about being here! I realize now that my last 15 years of work, primarily within public school systems, was the Lord's way of training me for this calling. I must confess I was totally content with my previous job. I thought public education was my calling, but surprise, the Lord had another plan.

I also must confess that, although living in the Detroit area all my life, I had no idea of the scope of the Lutheran School for the Deaf's ministry. No longer is it primarily meeting needs of deaf children, although we still try to maintain our deaf heritage. Our scope now includes special education ministries to learning disabled, educably mentally impaired, and gifted/talented, as well as deaf children, with the primary focus at this time, the learning disabled. Services are provided on the main campus in Detroit and at 28 satellite locations in Detroit and Chicago. Services never before provided, only dreamed about and prayed for, are now available. What a ministry! What a blessing! Do you sense my excitement?

Although so many have done so much for this great institution dating back to 1873, I want to give special thanks to three. First, to Reverend Rodney Rynearson, my predecessor, for his vision; second, to Rolland



New executive director, Roger DeMeyere, is on the job as of July 1, 1987.

Wilkening, the Interim Director, a retiree who knows not what the word retirement means; and finally to our God who gives us our purpose, possibilities, and peace. May He continue to bless us all as we serve.

Ephphatha Award Given In Ft. Worth

The board of directors of the Lutheran School for the Deaf had the pleasure and honor of recognizing Mrs. Carol Wahlers of Portland, Oregon as the recipient of the 1987 Ephphatha Award.

Mrs. Wahlers was nominated by Rev. Erhart Bauer, president of the Northwest District, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Arthur L. Lin-

nemann, Associate Director of Parish Services for the Northwest District. Among his comments in nominating Mrs. Wahlers, president Bauer stated "... her devotion and contribution to mentally retarded and on their behalf has been quality service and extensive. . . . She is a strong advocate of making church buildings accessible for handicapped people throughout Northwest congregations."

Mr. Linnemann wrote "Carol has given tirelessly of herself and of her means in the interest of helping others with handicapping conditions. She continues to mentor the cause of special ministry to special people within our District."

In the accompanying picture, Mrs. Wahlers is seen accepting the award from Interim Director Rolland Wilkening at a luncheon hosted by school representatives at the recent International Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention held in Ft. Worth, Texas.

In his remarks before the presentation, Mr. Wilkening commented on the remarks of the two nominators which were of particular importance to the school in its newly directed and revitalized ministry.

Mrs. Wahlers was joined at the luncheon by her husband and several other family members, a majority of the Oregon delegation to the convention, as well as the Michigan delegation and representatives of the Lutheran Ladies Auxiliary for the Deaf.

The Lutheran School for the Deaf is pleased to have recognized Mrs. Wahlers in this way and pray that God would continue to use her as an instrument in meeting the needs of handicapped people in the church.



Campbell's®

Soup Labels

Each year the Lutheran School for the Deaf participates in the Labels for Education program sponsored by the Campbell Soup Company. This year was somewhat special in that the efforts were recognized by the company with the award shown here. The 512,700 labels were sent in exchange for school supplies, audio-visual equipment, sports equipment, library books, and many other items used by the school.

We want to share this certificate with you, our readers, because it was you who helped gather and send the many labels that went together to make this impressive total.

Also, we want to thank the many people who worked long and hard on trimming, bundling, and packing the labels to be shipped to the Campbell Company. It is truly remarkable to see the result of the many friends of this school working together to achieve such a goal. This is surely evidence of love for the children touched by this ministry over the 114 years of service.

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1986-87
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1986-87 COLLECTION TOTAL

In Recognition of
Outstanding Accomplishment
in the 1986-87
Labels for Education Program

W. Strat

PROGRAM DIRECTOR



A Dear Friend

Recently the editor of the Advocate received a letter from Mrs. Erna Heidorn, niece of Edward A. Seegers. Some time ago Mr. Seegers made a gift to the school during construction of our newest building. One of the rooms in the Klein wing of the school bears the recognition concerning his gift.

His niece has sent us a picture of Mr. Seeger celebrating his 100th birthday on June 9, 1987. He is presently a resident of Lutheran Home for the Aged in Arlington Heights, Illinois, and we wish Mr. Seeger a most blessed and happy 100th birthday and thank God for the many blessings that He has given to Mr. Seeger throughout these many years.

Among those blessings is the ability and the means to provide the gift to the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit. It seems only natural that now in 1987 the Lutheran School for the Deaf is able to provide services to children in the Northern Illinois District and Chicagoland – the area in Mr. Seeger's backyard.

We hope that God will continue to bless not only Mr. Seeger but also his family and all of those who labor in His kingdom.

A Good Steward

In response to a special appeal letter from Lutheran School for the Deaf requesting donations to our scholarship fund, Mrs. Debra Stanton wrote:

Dear Mr. Harlow,

Thank you for your kind letter. I am glad to know that you and other staff at the School take time to read the letters that arrive with the donations!

My heart went out to the School after reading your June 15th letter. I had to wait till now to get my "tithing money" together from previous paychecks, but now I read that parents of students had to pay up by July 1st. Is it possible to still give scholarship assistance? If not, please use this gift wherever it is needed most.

God bless you, and please keep the letters coming to tell what the needs of the School are.

In Christ,

(Mrs.) Debra Stanton

DESIGNATED OFFERING FOLDER

Our new folder can be used for anniversaries, birthdays, and other joyous occasions. We will gladly send you free as many as you request.

Pound Day

Each fall, we appeal to our many supporters for donations to our "Pound Day" program. In the past, friends have given us many different kinds of food stuffs to support our child nutrition program.

As you have read in recent issues of the *Advocate*, our student body has changed dramatically. We no longer serve breakfast and supper.

Our needs are now in the area of lunch-time items. Annually we receive a gift of rice from friends in Arkansas, potatoes from Michigan, and other similar "area" specialties. We hope that good stewardship would dictate an open & honest approach to our needs.

We believe that to provide healthful and interesting meals to our 85 + noontime students we need the following:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruits
- Canned soups & soup mixes
- Pasta items
- Yams

Also, we need cash donations to be used for fresh meat, milk, and dairy items. If you or your group would like to specify a gift for this program, please let us know. We will answer any questions that you may have.

One ladies group asked about "Pound Day" several years ago. They didn't understand that we weigh the food donated and give a dollar value per pound as credit on our donor record. This group weighed each member of their group and assessed them 2 cents per pound and sent a cash gift for this purpose. A nice idea you might try.



LWML-LLL

During the summer of 1987, the Lutheran School for the Deaf was represented at the international conventions of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in Ft. Worth, Texas, and that of the Lutheran Laymen's League in Nashville, Tennessee. How great it was to have the opportunity to share first hand with God's people the mission of this school.

Members of both groups visited with representatives of the school at the display areas. New ministries were explained and shared. Ideas for involvement of local and district groups were developed. Contacts for future mission programs were established.

These two groups are only part of the support system for the ministry of this school.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Lutheran School for the Deaf, 6861 Nevada Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48234, a duly organized and incorporated, non-profit corporation, the sum of \$ and/or the following described real estate and/or stocks and bonds.

The receipt of the Treasurer or Executive Director of said corporation shall be sufficient discharge to my executor for same.

We look forward to future opportunities where we can share the story of the School and thereby be a part of the larger ministry to take the Gospel to those who have not heard of the good news of salvation.



ADVOCATE READERS

Return address postage will now cost us 30 cents apiece. Please help us. Inform us of any correction, deletion, or duplications. We need the following information.

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Last Name First Name Middle Initial

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No. and Street Apt. Suite P.O. or R.D. No. (in care of)

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Expanding Programs

Chicagoland Lutheran Special Education Expands Services

The Lutheran School for the Deaf has authorized expansion of the Chicagoland Lutheran Special Education program into 4 new schools for the 1987-88 school year. Those schools are:

Salem, Blue Island
Immanuel, Elmhurst
Timothy, Chicago
Prince of Peace, Chicago

We ask for the prayers and support of all members of the Northern Illinois district and all of the supporters of the Lutheran School for the Deaf. It is with deep gratitude to the district and to almighty God that He has enabled us to continue to offer this special education program to children in need. His grace and bountiful blessings continue to meet the need for this continuing expansion.

The cooperation and support of the congregations of the Chicagoland area is also to be commended. Our staff working in the Chicagoland area are elated with the openness and reception they have received from the congregations desiring participation in our program. Progress reports on

the individual children have been gratifying, and we look forward to continued growth and success in this program.

It is with great joy that we look forward to serving these additional congregations during this current school year, and we will be visiting the district to amplify these reports from time to time.

Detroit Lutheran Special Education Expands Services

St. John, Taylor
St. John, Fraser
St. Michael, Wayne
Lutheran High, Westland

With the Chicagoland and Detroit expansion 366 potential students can be served in these programs. While state and federal guidelines are considered when establishing class size and delivery of services to children, the Lutheran School for the Deaf has used the needs of individual children as the primary concern for designing educational programs.

It is hoped that this type of schooling will enable us to provide the highest level of individualized programs to those children in need of special education services.



Francis

Here you see Pastor Clark Bailey of Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf presenting a gift to Francis Anwana of Lagos, Nigeria, Africa on the occasion of his confirmation.

Francis came to Lutheran School for the Deaf in 1983 after contact was made between Lutheran School for the Deaf and his family through the Lutheran Laymen's League convention where Mr. Elmer Engel of the Lutheran School for the Deaf board met (LLL) representatives. Francis' father was associated with Lutheran television in Nigeria.

Francis is the oldest of 8 children. We praise God for the blessing of bringing Francis to the United States and Lutheran School for the Deaf. We thank Him for making our school an instrument of spreading His "Good News" to Francis.

