

The **ADVOCATE**

for Students with Special Learning Needs

LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF • SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES

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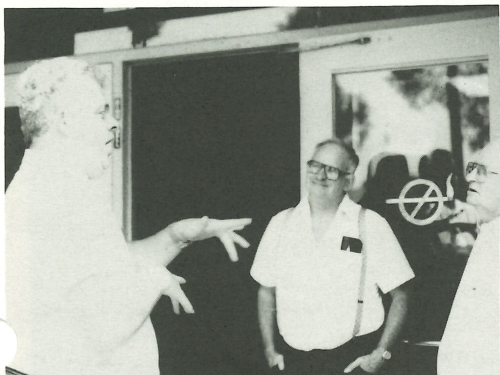
Alumni Become Reacquainted at The "Big Reunion"



Jennifer Freed Bonura and Sandra Hirsch renew their friendship at entrance to the school.



Ken Carter, reunion chairman, expresses thanks to all who came to the banquet.



Reunion gives the opportunity to visit.

What a wonderful experience! Alumni and staff who had not seen each other in years were once again reunited as a result of the "Big Reunion," the first ever in the 115 year history of the school. Tears of joy and laughter was the norm for the three day event June 10, 11, and 12.

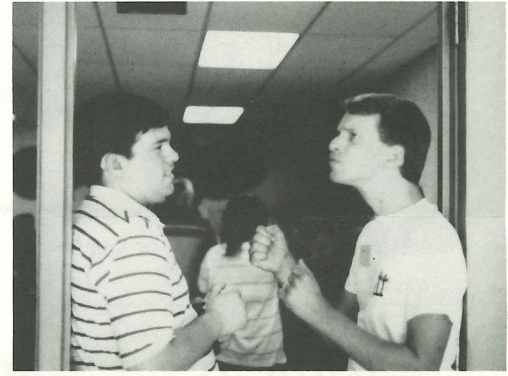
It was heartwarming to see people who lived together as children reunited, some after 35 or 40 years. A major event of the weekend was the banquet on Saturday evening in which over 280 alumni and staff enjoyed good food, fellowship, and entertainment.

The pictures you see on this page cannot capture the emotion as alumni expressed their memories of the school. The alumni committee, who planned the reunion, did a fantastic job in organizing the events of the weekend.

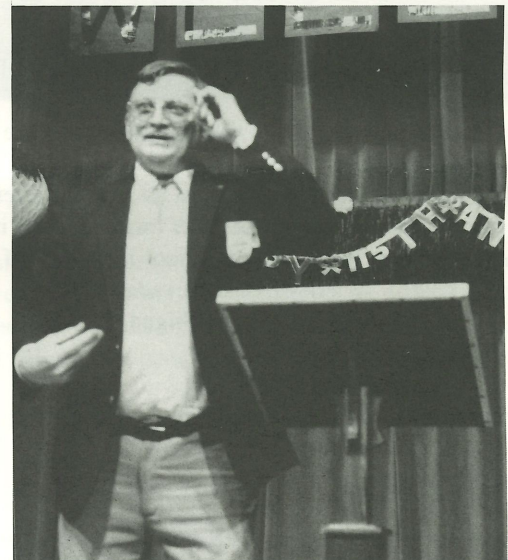
We look forward to having a long-term relationship with the alumni, for the group voted to form the Lutheran School for the Deaf Alumni Association which, among other things, will have a reunion every five years. We look forward to working with representatives of the alumni to make the alumni association a reality.

If you know of alumni that were not able to attend the reunion, send us their name and address and we will make sure they receive information. Look at the pictures and imagine the excitement of this event. We thank God that

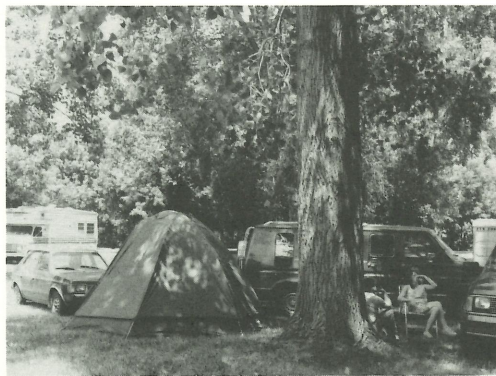
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Scott Wilson & Jon Brown share "old times."



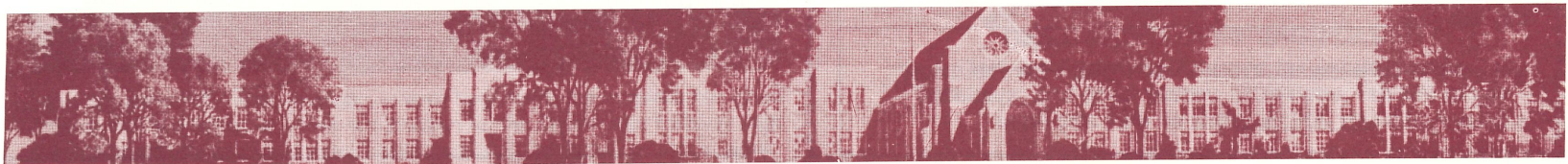
Dick Nicolai addresses assembly at reunion.



Several alumni used the grounds for camping during their stay.



Barbara Gossmann Fairman, Helen Szajna, and George Scheiderer pose for the photographer.



We Learn As We Grow

Last spring the students involved in the Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries (LSDSEM) programs in Chicago and Detroit, were given the opportunity to express their heartfelt feelings about our program through their artwork. The children's drawings centered around the theme "learning and growing." This theme was chosen because our students are now able to feel success in learning and grow spiritually through our specialized learning environments. Our teachers are able to spread the word of God through their individualized lessons.



The children produced many beautiful drawings. Four of these drawings were used for the covers of our new brochures. To express our

Alumni Reacquainted

(Continued from page 1)

the school has meant so much to this group of people. We ask God's blessings on us that we may continue to positively affect the lives of special children.

In conjunction with the "Big Reunion," the staff has made video tapes of movies, and they are available for order. These tapes are of school produced movies from the past. If you are interested in receiving a VHS copy, please complete the order form and send it along with your check or money order to: Lutheran School for the Deaf

6861 East Nevada
Detroit, Michigan 48234

Movies available are:

- The World of Silence
- A New Life for Jennifer
- The Word in a Silent World
- Ephphatha

***** VIDEO CASSETTE ORDER FORM*****

\$15.00 each plus \$2.00 Shipping & Handling

Please indicate the number of film cassettes you want:

- _____ THE WORLD OF SILENCE
- _____ A NEW LIFE FOR JENNIFER
- _____ THE WORD IN A SILENT WORLD
- _____ EPHPHATHA

Number of copies _____ × \$15.00 = _____
Shipping charge 2.00
Total _____

Check or money order must accompany your order.

Name _____

Address _____

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Make checks payable to LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Amount Paid \$ _____

appreciation for the effort the children put into their artwork, the names of the artists are printed inside each brochure. The brochures outline our statement of ministry and describe the many avenues of LSDSEM in serving God's special population.

Our teachers are excited to meet their students and discover their interests. The teachers will develop creative ideas to meet the needs of each child's specific learning style. Each student will be given many opportunities to continue to grow in love for his Savior.

Ephphatha Award Presented at South Wisconsin District Convention

On June 16, 1988 Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries presented its fifth Ephphatha Award to Mrs. Judy Schultz of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mrs. Schultz was nominated for the award by the president of the South Wisconsin District, Reverend Harvey Krueger, and supported by Mr. Gene Ladendorf, Administrative Assistant to the President for Lutheran Schools in the South Wisconsin District.

Both gentlemen cited Mrs. Schultz's dedication to the task of providing Christian education for special children and for her patience and enduring effort to overcome obstacles of facilities, funding, and apathy on the part of some who did not believe in the cause. Overcoming these obstacles was a special ability of Judy's, and Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries wishes to recognize her efforts on behalf of special children.

We wish to congratulate Mrs. Schultz and wish her the Lord's blessings in her future efforts on behalf of special children.

From A Parent of the Gifted Program at the Detroit Campus

On behalf of the parents involved with these special children, we wish to thank Mrs. Carol Marcus for her four years in this unique ministry. Although we stand behind her in her brave decision to become a full-time homemaker and parent, we do hope she knows how much her superb talent and loving attitude have inspired our children to be all our Lord meant them to be. She has been a shining example and when needed, a counselor, leading us to seek God's will in our day-to-day frustrations as parents of these children.

With sincere appreciation for her dedication, we wish Carol and John Marcus a rich abundance of God's grace, peace and guidance as they train up their new child in the way he should go.

In Christ,
The parents of your class.

Some Children Have Handicaps You Cannot See

Can you readily identify all the children that have special learning needs? Those children who have learning needs, and are currently being served by Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries, do not necessarily appear different from their classmates. One would be extremely hard-pressed to identify, from a class picture, these exceptional children. It perhaps is the children's fondest wish (and that of their parents and teachers) that they blend in academically, socially, and physically.

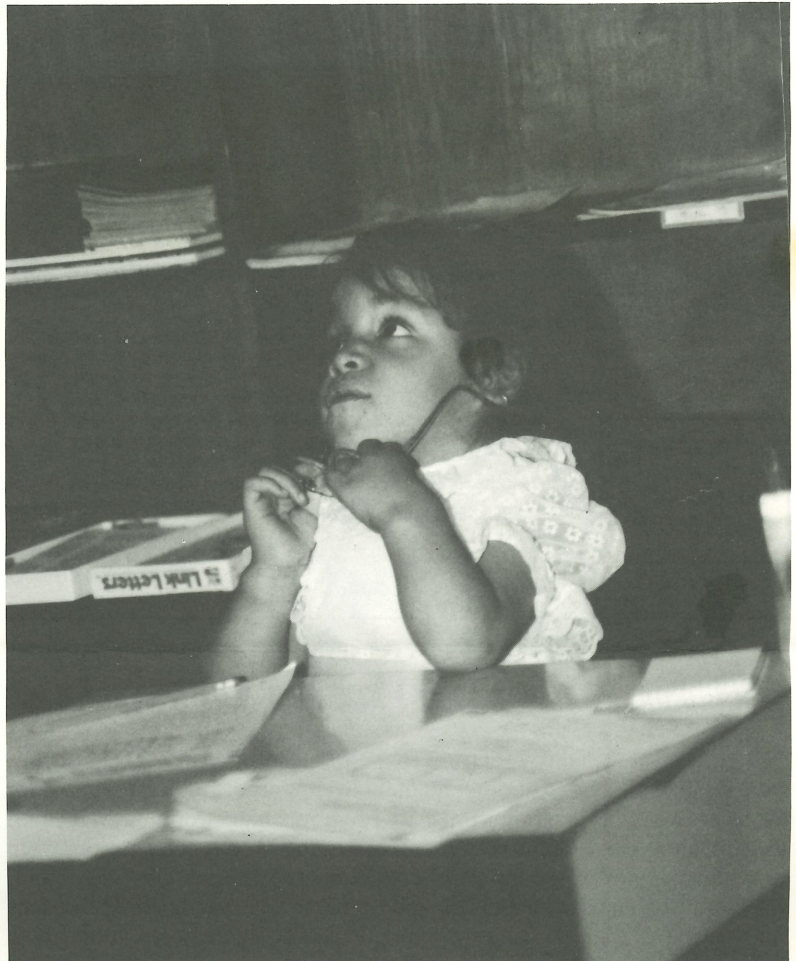
Their uniqueness stems from a variety of situations which result in making learning profoundly more difficult than for the average student. In the sometimes "hard, cruel" world of an elementary classroom, academic deficiencies can quickly grow to include social "differences," a situation which can have long lasting complications. LSDSEM provides the opportunity for an academically challenged child to receive specialized guidance and individual support and encouragement within the regular Lutheran school.

There are 12 Lutheran schools in Chicago and 15 in Detroit which serve as host schools for our resource room programs. Children's programs range from kindergarten through high school. All the children come at different times for up to three hours of personalized instruction each day. Let's look at a typical program in Chicago; it currently has eight children.

Todd, the newest member in the school's program, is a bubbly and quite lively kindergartener. He is learning some basic readiness skills prior to entering first grade. His diagnostic testing implies the urgent need for resource help. Todd, however, only knows that he really loves coming to the resource room. He writes stories (dictating them to the teacher), practices writing his name and learns the letters of the alphabet. His classmates cheer him on when he returns to kindergarten. Some kindergarten students have even asked when it will be their turn to come!

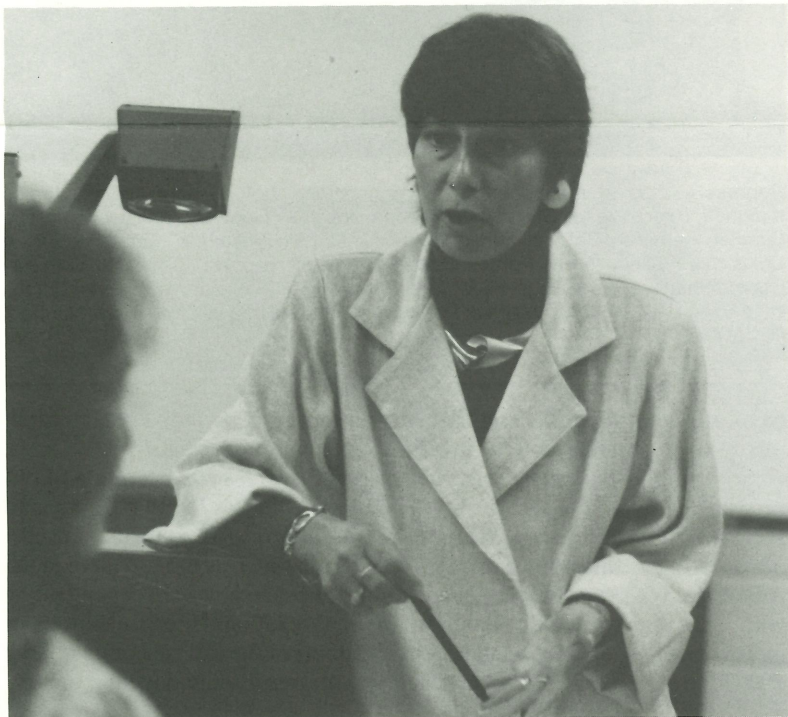
Terence is a quick-to-smile third grader. He has consistently been the one student who was reluctant to leave until he finished more schoolwork! His eagerness to work seems remarkable when one considers prior academic and social difficulties he faced. Resource room experience has given Terence mastery of some badly needed skills, and a much needed measure of success and positive reinforcement.

Since each student has an individually tailored lesson plan, sharing resource room time does not mean learning the same lessons. Students learn to work independently while the teacher works with one of the other students. Each of the students has been able to learn procedures necessary to make the resource room a positive learning experience.



Maurice, Kenneth, Willie, Andre, LaKeysha, and Mark's hard work has paid off when they show improvement on achievement test scores, as well as when they show competency in a difficult or previously unlearned area.

Perhaps the most significant factor concerning these children is their attitude about themselves. They do not see themselves as different from their peers. Knowing they are loved children of God enables them to feel that they, just like their friends, are specially chosen by a loving Savior.



Nicky Armato of Ann Arbor, Michigan, is seen here during a presentation on gifted children that she led as an in-service program for the Detroit area Lutheran high school administrators and guidance counselors in the Ephphatha Conference Center.

Ephphatha Equipping Teachers and Parents

The primary purpose of Ephphatha Institute is to provide consultative services including curriculum assistance, diagnostic testing, and instructional consultation for children with special learning needs. Additionally, many in-service presentations for educators and parents have been offered this past school year.

Programs were given for parents, area elementary and high school teachers, and our Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries faculty. Major presenters included Dr. Gary Hessler who dealt with better understanding of learning disorders in children; Dr. Barbara Reed who spoke of the effects of diet on learning and behavior; and Barbara Meister Vitale who discussed many different approaches to try with children who are having difficulty learning.

In addition to arranging for these larger in-service activities, the Ephphatha Institute staff provides a variety of presentations on various special education topics for individual faculties or for teacher conferences.

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.

With the knowledge of God's love and desire that God's love be revealed through our ministry, the Lutheran School For The Deaf Special Education Ministries serves to enable children with special learning needs to receive a Christian Education.

STATEMENT OF MINISTRY

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SECOND CLASS

Northern Illinois Organizations Support Special Children

In May, representatives from four Northern Illinois Lutheran organizations signed a Consortium Agreement in support of Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries programs in metropolitan Chicago. Roger DeMeyere, Executive Director of LSDSEM, has been meeting with representatives of Concordia College, Lutheran Church Charities Fund, Northern Illinois District-LCMS, and Lutheran Child and Family Services for the past year developing the agreement. The agreement outlines how the various organizations will work cooperatively to help Chicagoland Lutheran Special Education Services continue meeting the needs of children with special learning problems.

The Chicagoland program began in 1984 at the invitation of the Northern Illinois District. Currently there are twelve resource rooms which help children with special learning needs be successful within the regular classroom in Lutheran elementary schools throughout metropolitan Chicago. Seven full-time and three part-time personnel comprise the Chicagoland staff.

Although the major funding and administrative responsibility is borne by LSDSEM, the other organizations support our ministry in a variety of ways. Concordia College donates office space for the director of the Chicagoland program and Ephphatha Institute personnel who provide evaluation and consultation services. Lutheran Church Charities fund is the organization which provides financial support for various social ministry organizations in Northern Illinois including Lutheran School for the Deaf. They have agreed to continue providing financial support for our ministry as part of the agreement. The Northern Illinois District, in addition to serving in an advisory capacity for current programs, annually will host a dinner meeting for principals and pastors of the schools that house our programs in order to discuss and evaluate the services. Lutheran Child and Family Services serves as a counseling resource for the families of children who participate in our programs.

These are just some of the highlights of the six page agreement. We thank God that our Lutheran organizations can work together and share our

commitment to serving children with special learning needs in Chicago, and we pray that similar cooperative relationships can be developed throughout the country.



Representatives of the consortium organizations. Left to right: Dr. W. James Kirchoff, Executive for Christian Education, NID; Mr. Gene Svebakkan, Executive Director, Lutheran Child & Family Services; Dr. Allan Zimmer, Academic Dean, Concordia College River Forest; Reverend Robert Jacobs, President, Lutheran Church Charities Fund; Roger DeMeyere, Executive Director, Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries; Reverend Theodore Laesch, President, Northern Illinois District.

Scholarship

An ongoing need exists for financial support of our educational program. Historically scholarship support has been given in the form of

Yes!
I will help, send information on helping children to:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____

memorials or direct gifts and has been used to sponsor individual children whose parents are unable to meet the financial obligation.

A more intense need exists because of the charitable operation of our ministry. Only 14% of the cost of a child's special education program and services is collected through tuition and fees. Eighty-six percent of the cost of educating a child comes from gifts of friends such as those who read the Advocate. We are not dependent on public assistance, we are dependent on you. This year we would like to invite congregations or organizations or individuals to sponsor a scholarship in support of the full cost of one of the 300 children receiving direct instructional service throughout our ministry. This would be greatly appreciated.

The average cost per child for the 1988-89 school year is \$6,300.00. If you would choose to support this program, the entire amount would not be needed immediately but could be spread over the course of 12 months.