

The ADVOCATE

"FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS"

LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES

6861 E. NEVADA, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

(313) 368-1220

Winter, 1989

Volume 59, Issue 4

A New Opportunity

by Rebecca Sanke

I began school at the Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries (LSDSEM) when I was five years old. At that time, I began in a hearing impaired class with about five other students. Since I was so young, I only attended school for a half day. I remember getting to stay all day once to go to the circus.

A few years later, I was in a different class with ten students. I went to school all day and I was the only hearing impaired student in my class.

At the Lutheran School for the Deaf, the classes are smaller and have many different ages in one class. When I was going to school there, I often wondered what school was like in a regular elementary school. Some questions I had were: Do they have band? What kind of clothes do the kids wear? What kind of lunches are there? If there were more girls in one class? What kind of sports do they have? If the teacher was mean or grouchy because he had more students in one class? And, what was the homework like?

At the beginning of this school year, I was given a chance to answer all my questions. I am now 12 years old, in the sixth grade, and attending school at St. Luke in Mt. Clemens. I am playing the trumpet

in band and playing basketball on the 5th and 6th grade basketball team. The clothes are pretty much the same at St. Luke, except you can't wear jeans, unless it is a special day. You can wear tennis shoes though. Lunch is way different. There isn't a hot lunch program, except on Wednesdays.

There are 23 students in my class, with 10 girls. I really like that because that way you have a choice of friends. The teachers are nice for the most part. I see Mrs. Fielitz in the resource room for about 30 minutes a day, to go over my work for the day. My regular classroom teacher is Mr. Boss. The thing that surprised me the most was all the homework. I work hard all day with 1 long break, and 2 short ones. Then, homework in the evening takes me an hour to an hour and a half, depending on the work. The work is much harder at St. Luke than at LSDSEM.

Mr. Kutz is the principal. He teaches 7th grade in the morning, and also a Current Events class, which I am in. He is very nice to everybody. I like him because he always tells me good morning. He is so different from what I imagined. I read in books about principals who were very mean and never let you talk in school, or were always suspending kids. Mr. Kutz is not like that at all.

I'm glad I am here at St. Luke. I've made new friends and am very active in school events.



Left to Right: Jane Fielitz, Resource Room Teacher; Rebecca Sanke, Student; Mr. John Kutz, Principal at St. Luke Lutheran School.



Rebecca at work in the resource room at St. Luke's.

A Second Chance

by Jane Fielitz

Four years ago, I was teaching in a self-contained classroom for the learning disabled on the main campus of Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries (LSDSEM). At that time, I had 10 students in my class, including one who was hearing impaired. Her name was Rebecca Sanke. I remember that Rebecca was a small, somewhat shy little girl, who always had her work finished and willing to do more. I knew that year, that someday, Rebecca would be mainstreamed out into a regular elementary classroom. But at that time, we felt that she was too young and it was too soon to chance a possible failure.

At the end of last year, I received a phone call from LSDSEM. We discussed the idea of Rebecca being mainstreamed into a regular classroom. Through several meetings, questions, fears and prayers, it was decided that Rebecca would be mainstreamed into sixth grade at St. Luke, in Mt. Clemens. I feel that the decision to put her in St. Luke was a good one. I have never seen a more caring and cooperative faculty and staff than I have seen there. They have taken in Rebecca, not only in their classrooms, but into their hearts. They want to be there to help, and

have shown this to me, through many efforts to learn about Rebecca's impairment.

Rebecca wears a hearing aid and has a very difficult time understanding what is being said if she is not face to face to the speaker, or if the noise level is high. Her teachers at St. Luke have adjusted their teaching styles to accommodate her needs. Such adjustments include: facing her to talk, not talking while their backs are to her (like when writing on the chalkboard), repeating responses given by other students in class so that it is clear what is being said, and the teacher who is in charge wearing the FM unit. The teacher clips a microphone on to his/her shirt or tie, then carries a transmitter box on the belt buckle. Rebecca then wears a receiver around her neck. The distance that Rebecca then hears is from the teacher's mouth to the microphone. This helps, especially if the teacher's back is turned.

I feel very privileged in getting a second chance to work with Rebecca. I often tell her that God has given her many talents and just because she wears a hearing aid, doesn't mean she can't use them. I'm glad she's trying new things like playing the trumpet, basketball, and who knows, maybe cheerleading. Keep up the good work Rebecca! We're all behind you. And thanks, St. Luke for sharing your Christian love with us both.

Dear Friend:



Roger DeMeyere

I write a letter to you asking for your financial support every year, sometimes more frequently. Usually I show you lots of statistics, the number of children served, annual budget, cost per pupil, projected deficits, etc. Statistics are commonly used to impress you and to encourage continued financial support, but I'm never quite sure if my words really have an effect. I can't be sure you even read what I write, although I hope you do. This year I decided to take a different approach. No statistics, no glowing reports, just a letter straight from the heart of a parent of one of the children we serve.

I received a letter from Mr. Robert Rau in response to a request I made for suggestions on re-naming our special education day school. Although I appreciate the name Mr. Rau offered, what I was most impressed with was the rationale given for the name. It touches the heart. Read what Mr. Rau had to say:

"... I would like to propose that the name of the Nevada campus be changed to HIS TOO LUTHERAN SCHOOL. 'Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.' God's word instructs us. Our children who attend LSDSEM are just as much subject to this admonition as children who attend other schools. Therefore, they are HIS, TOO.

Whatever special circumstances bring children to LSDSEM, they receive the education tailored for them plus the assurance that they are loved by the Savior and part of His magnificent creation.

As a parent of a child with special learning needs, it is easy to become overwhelmed by, and so involved in, the educational, medical, and social challenges our child faces as we attempt to make her way a little easier. We forget He gave us this child as our responsibility to educate and to lead to Him.

'Suffer the little children to come to me and forbid them not.' What a wonderful lesson to learn. No matter the handicap or the gift, they are all loved by Him, accepted by Him, and have a place in His kingdom. As our children forge their way in life, many times apart from where their peers are, it is so comforting to know that what really matters is that they are indeed HIS, TOO!

I can't begin to explain how much LSDSEM has meant to us since Melanie was first enrolled last year. From the staff at the Ephphatha Institute, the efforts of her teacher and the volunteers, we know that Melanie is being cared for by people who believe she is HIS, TOO!"

God bless Mr. Rau for taking the time to write this letter. It means a lot to me, and I know the same is true for the faculty, staff, and volunteers. Please help us continue to help children like Melanie.

Serving HIS Children TOO,

Roger DeMeyere
Executive Director

Lutheran Brotherhood Helping!

The profits of the Harvest Festival were matched by Lutheran Brotherhood through the North Macomb Branch 8156 and the Blue Water Branch 8251. We are thankful to the branches for helping to match the \$2,600.00 in profits for our school.

If you have a Lutheran Brotherhood Life, Health, Annuity, Tax Sheltered Annuity, Certificate of Deposit, Money Market or Investment Account, you can have your gift to our ministry matched up to \$100.00 by Lutheran Brotherhood.

Please enclose the Primary Partners Form with your gift.

Tell Me What You Think

by Roger DeMeyere

The board of directors is considering a recommendation to change the name of Lutheran School for the Deaf to LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES to better reflect the dramatic changes that have taken place in our ministry over the past ten years.

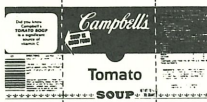

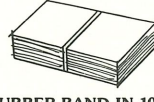
Although we still provide a Christian education for several deaf children, Lutheran School for the Deaf is no longer exclusively a school for deaf children. For publicity purposes, during the past one and a half years we have been using a transitional name, Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries, and we have told you how the Lord has opened the doors of this ministry to hundreds of children who, although not deaf, have special learning needs and are in need of a Christian education. Herein lies the dilemma. Do we dare to change a name that has been so recognizable? Please, take time to tell me what you think.

Campbell's Label for Education Program


Again this year, our school is saving Campbell soup labels and related products. The school is able to redeem these for needed audio visual equipment.

Can you help by saving labels? If you need more information write the school. We need to redeem these labels by the end of February.

HOW TO SEND

TRIM LIKE THIS  Tomato SOUP	IF POSSIBLE TIE  IN BUNDLES OF 500	OTHERWISE  RUBBER BAND IN 100's
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FROM SWANSON FROZEN DINNERS



Send to:
LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
6861 E. NEVADA
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48234

• French language labels are acceptable.
• Untrimmed labels are acceptable.

LABELS TO SAVE ...

Thank You!












REWARD...
FREE SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

ALL SIZES OF CAMPBELL LABELS ARE ELIGIBLE

Thank You!

First Hand Knowledge

by Mark T. Brower, teacher at LSDSEM



Mark Brower
Teacher at LSDSEM

When I was in 1st grade, I was held back in school. They thought I had a learning problem, but they did not know what the learning problem was. In 6th grade, I was tested LD with an attention deficit problem. Back then it was called hyperactivity.

My parents decided to put me in a private school in Denver, Colorado. When I went into this school, I had a reading level of a second grader. I was going into the 7th grade when I entered this school. In one year, I came out of the school with a reading level of a 6th grader. Then I was sent back to the Scottsbluff school system in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. In Scottsbluff at that time, they did not have a resource room teacher or a teacher for learning disabilities. They

got a teacher in the Junior High School.

I spent my time in the Junior High School going to the resource room two hours a day, just working on reading and math type activities, and catching up on other work in other classrooms. I had to take all my tests orally with all of my teachers. Most of my tests in Social Studies, Math and Science were given to me orally one-on-one after school, and sometimes before school.

When I was ready to move on to High School, I had all my tests orally again. We had a resource room teacher. During this time of growing up, I was made fun of by other students, but I had support from my parents

and other friends.

As I went on to college to find out what I was going to do, first I was going into the Social Work field, then I decided to go into the educational field, especially Special Education. My reason was to help kids who have had the same kind of problems I have had, and maybe use my knowledge of some of the things that worked for me, that may work for kids with learning problems and attention deficit problems.

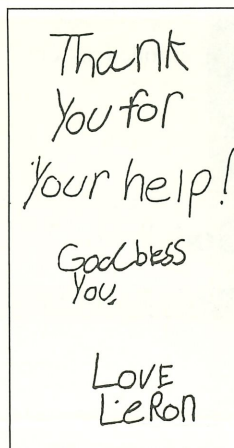
I went to Concordia in Seward, Nebraska in 1982. I graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Special Education with a P.E. minor. I am a member of Charity Lutheran Church in Detroit. I am the Director of Lay Ministry at Charity Lutheran Church, like the Director of Elders. I have been at Charity for four years, helped with youth and Sunday School, and this will be my second year as Director of Lay Ministry.

The reason I teach at Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries is that I like to teach kids with special needs, and show a love and caring that I was given when I was going to school. I like to show the kids that they are special people, even though they have a learning problem, and help them to learn how to cope with their learning problem the rest of their lives.

I think that one of the main things we do here at our ministry is show Christ's love through what he has done for us, that he died on the cross for us, and we can show this to our kids. Some of these kids have never known this before, and we can show this through our religion classes. I think we have a special ministry here at our school as we reach out to others and show others that have special problems, that they are no different than the other kids, and that they have the love of Christ in them.



The Busybees (Mr. & Mrs. Peeples) performing at the Harvest Festival.



Avante Doesn't Give Up

by Tami Gelsosomo, Resource Room Teacher

Avante is a seventh grader in our resource room at Salem Lutheran School, Blue Island, Illinois. She has started out the new school year with a brand new attitude. Although seventh grade will be a challenge for her, she doesn't give up. Her reading and math skills have shown great improvement.

This is my second year working with Avante. We have built a good relationship based on trust which benefits Avante's learning environment. She has grown and matured over the past year into a fine young Christian person. I am very proud of how hard Avante is trying. With a positive attitude, Avante will achieve her goals.

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

LUTHERAN
S C H O L
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SECOND CLASS
POSTAGE PAID
AT
DETROIT, MICH

Christian Education Support—You Can Help

The cost of providing a Christian education to our students with special needs is \$29.00 per day, \$143.00 per week, and \$572.00 per month.

Over 85% of our support comes from people that believe in our ministry. Can you help?

At the end of October, LSDSEM has 316 children enrolled in our programs.

Thank You!

All of us at Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries want to say a big "Thank You!"

Through the "ADVOCATE" we reach many, if not most, of those who participate in our ministry. As a reader, you are one who has directly affected the Christian education of the children entrusted to us.

Perhaps you said a silent prayer for our staff, sent a gift for support of a specific child, or encouraged a group to become involved in some way.

Whatever your involvement, please accept our "Thank You!"
God Bless You!!

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

The Charitable Gift Annuity

The charitable gift annuity is a planned gift to benefit a charitable organization while generating income to the individual making the gift.

The donor gets a tax deduction at the time the gift is made as well as sheltering interest earned within the plan until it is paid out.

The payments agreed to at the time the plans are made out are *guaranteed* for the life of the donor by the charity.

An example of the charitable gift annuity is as follows:

Name of annuitant: John P. Christian Age: 76

Amount of funds transferred to charitable gift annuity: \$7,000.00

Date transferred: April 18, 1989

Quarterly income to donor for his lifetime: \$152.25

*Charitable contribution: \$3,815.11

*Donor may deduct this contribution up to 50% of adjusted gross income. Should all donor's contributions which qualify exceed 50% of his/her adjusted gross income, he may deduct the excess over the 5 following years until exhausted.

If there are questions regarding charitable gift annuities, or how they can be established, please contact the development office at our school at (313) 368-1220.

I/we would like information on Charitable Gift Annuities.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____