

The ADVOCATE

"FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS"

LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES

6861 E. NEVADA, DETROIT, MICHIGAN
(313) 368-1220

February 1990

Volume 60, Issue 1



Jennifer Smith (first from left), cheerleading.

"Another Jennifer being helped"

A Story About Jennifer, As Told By Her Mother

It is hard to deal with other children who make fun of you. Jennifer had to deal with this frustration, and with the frustration of not being able to keep up with her class.

In September 1986, Jennifer started school at Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries (LSDSEM). When she first started school, she had some problems with missing patches of hair caused by stress. Since she has been with LSDSEM, Jennifer has a full head of hair. She has a wonderful attitude toward her school work, and has made many friendships, not only with other students, but with teachers.

This school is a family. It has been a positive force for me as well. For the first time, I have come in contact with a school where you have a real personal friendship, a friendship with the teachers and staff, because they are concerned about doing the best for your child.

The atmosphere at the Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries is positive, loving, and caring. Any time there is a problem, it is not too big of a problem that people will not come in and say, "What can we do?", "What do you need?" I love it, and the people that are in this ministry. When Jennifer was in the hospital, a teacher came to visit her, which showed

Jennifer that someone other than her parents cared for her. There are a lot of little things that may seem insignificant or small, but to Jennifer, these insignificant things are of major importance. Jennifer made great strides and continues to make progress. This year, Jennifer is a cheerleader at school, doing well, and loves her teacher.

Jennifer has grown physically, in knowledge, and in Christ. I am very thankful for the way the Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries has helped my child.



Story by Jennifer Smith

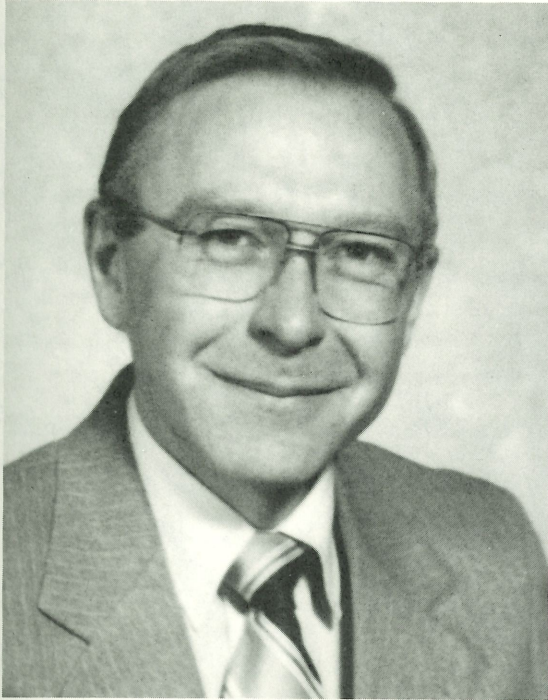
Campus Student

Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries has taught me that Jesus Christ is my Savior. I have a lot of friends. Maia is probably my best friend from school. I have known Maia for four years, and we have a good time together. The teachers here at school are great. They all take you for the person you are. At my old school I wasn't accepted like I am here. I am doing good in school and I thank my mom and my teacher, Mrs. Hennessy.



Jennifer Smith, with her teacher, Karen Hennessy.





Reaching out in 25 years of ministry

The Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries announces James Pagels' celebration of 25 years in the teaching ministry. Jim was born near Woodlake, a small town in southwestern Minnesota. He was one of three children, the son of an elementary Lutheran school teacher and principal, Ernest Pagels. His boyhood home was Watertown, MN. Jim attended high school at Concordia Academy in St. Paul, MN, going from there to

Concordia Teacher's College, River Forest, Illinois. Upon graduation in 1964, Mr. Pagels was called to Redford Lutheran School in Detroit. He taught intermediate grades, coached sports, and was a youth leader.

Jim received his M.A. in 1970 from Wayne State University, Detroit, in Educational Psychology and an Educational Specialist degree in School and Community Psychology in 1979. He is certified in the areas of elementary education and learning disabilities, and additionally as a school psychologist.

In 1976, he was called to the Lutheran School for the Deaf to serve in the emerging learning disability program. He now serves in directing the consulting and evaluating services as Director of Ephphatha Institute.

In 1965, Jim married Doris Meyermann of Clinton, Iowa. She teaches kindergarten at Bethlehem Lutheran School in Roseville. The Pagels have two children. Mark is a sophomore at Central Michigan University and Michelle is a sophomore at Lutheran High School East.

The Pagels family are members of St. Thomas Lutheran Church in East Detroit. Jim is presently a leader in the Stephen's Ministry.

Mr. Pagels has also been a part-time instructor in learning disabilities at Wayne State University and has volunteered as a counselor at Centerpoint Crisis Center. He enjoys swimming, tennis, and continues to participate annually in the Detroit Free Press International Marathon.

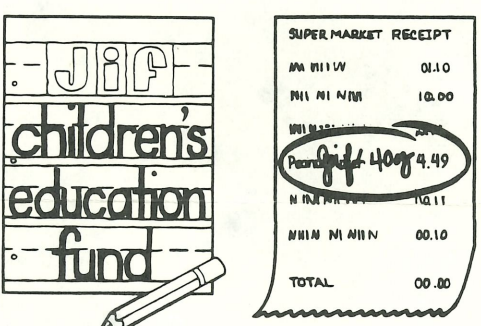
CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS

Campbell labels help our ministry.

Last year our ministry received valuable educational material through the Labels for Education Program.

Please send your Campbell labels to the Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries, 6861 East Nevada, Detroit, Michigan 48234 before February 28, 1990.

JIF CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND



Jif Peanut Butter will donate money to our school for each cash register receipt of Jif. Collection dates for receipts are from February 1, 1990 to April 30, 1990. The amount of money ranges anywhere from 12¢ for a 12 oz. jar to 64¢ for a 64 oz. can. Please send your receipts in to LSDSEM, care of Peter Heinicke, by April 30, 1990. Circle and label your receipts as illustrated. Thank you for your help and support.

Executive Director's Ministry Update



Special greetings to you. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on two very important events for our ministry. First, I wanted to say thank you to all of those who responded to my request in the last Advocate to "Tell Me What You Think" about a name change for our ministry. After much prayerful thought and discussion, the board of directors has decided to recommend approval of the new name, **Lutheran Special Education Ministries**, to the delegates at the Annual Meeting on May 9, 1990.

Although an historic step in the 117 year history of our ministry, the precedent for name change was previously established in 1957 when the name Society of the

Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Mute Institute was changed to Lutheran School for the Deaf. Delegates saw the need for change.

We should all feel assured that name change does not mean services to deaf children have been discontinued; rather, the name **Lutheran Special Education Ministries** makes a more accurate and truthful statement about this ministry. We help hundreds of children with special learning needs, including some hearing impaired children, to obtain a Christian education so that they may be better prepared for earthly life and through God's grace have eternal life.

I will certainly keep you updated on the outcome of the decision reached at the May 9th association meeting. I am also very pleased to report that the Reverend Dr. Oswald C.J. Hoffmann, honorary Lutheran Hour speaker, will be the guest speaker for the dinner meeting.

Additionally, I wanted to share with you that our ministry is nearing completion of its bid to obtain National Lutheran School Accreditation offered through the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Board for Parish Services. As of this date, we have completed an extensive self study in eleven key areas of ministry. An eleven member visiting team of educational and church leaders from Michigan, New York, Illinois, and Nebraska have completed their evaluation. We will receive final word regarding our accreditation status this summer.

It's an understatement to say the school year thus far has been exciting; exhilarating would be more appropriate. Will this continue? I have no doubt. Please keep the children and all associated with this ministry in your prayers.

Blessings.

Roger DeMeyere
Roger DeMeyere

Success...SEAL(ed)

by Andy Bailey, Resource Room Teacher

Dennis is now a Seal in the U.S. Navy. It was his big goal to be a Seal. Dennis had significant reading difficulties when he first came to LSDSEM. That was his biggest problem. He was a bright, intelligent kid, but couldn't read, and so couldn't make it through classes. We never taught him how to read, but we taught him how to cope, and how to take a book and at least get the pertinent information out of it.

His goal in life was to become a Seal. Within six months after graduating from Lutheran High School East in our program, Dennis became a Seal, and is training in Central America.



Left: Billie with his teacher Brenda Jenks.
Below: Jamal in the Resource Room.

I think the Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries has been the greatest inspiration for us. For my experience, when my child, Jim, started school, he was very deficient in so many things. With the limited sized classroom and very efficient teachers, LSDSEM was able to teach my child phonics. Jim was able to do math, and there were so many things that school did for him.

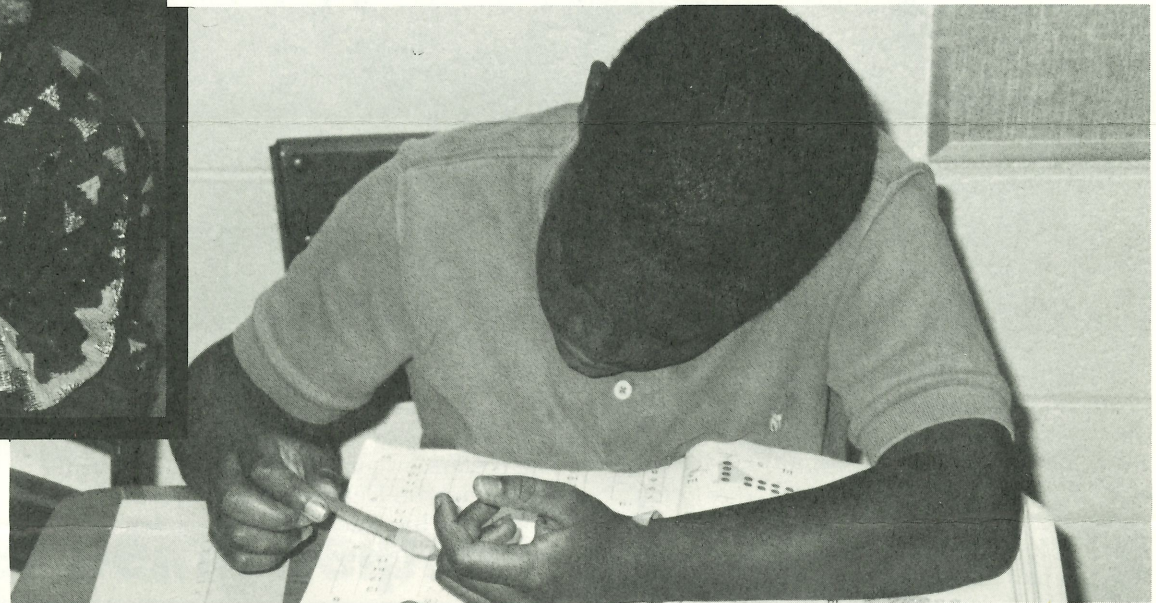
I would like to tell other parents who have children with limited abilities to try and get their child into a program like the one at LSDSEM.

Thoughts on LSDSEM

by Jim Bell

As a student at LSDSEM, I would like to thank God for helping me. If it wasn't for God the school wouldn't be here. I would also like to thank all the teachers I had throughout the years. They really taught me a lot, especially Mrs. Alberts. She taught me many subjects, including the Bible. She taught me how to look up Bible passages and how to read them. I would really like to thank her for sharing all those opportunities with me.

When I went to the school, I couldn't read. Now I can read so many words, and I can pronounce so many words. I would like to be a chef. This June I will graduate from Lutheran High East. I have been involved in one year of wrestling and three years of track.



"Growing in Christ"

by Carla McMichen, Resource Room Teacher

When Jennifer first entered our program, she was afraid of learning because she failed at her previous school. She was all stressed out, and she became nervous about learning, and her mother didn't know what to do. Three or four years later, Jennifer was enrolled at LSDSEM because she did have a learning disability. Since then, her mother has been ecstatic about her gains in self-confidence and self-esteem. I remember her telling me that she loved school, and her teacher. I also remember her mother telling me that she could really see Christ working in her life. Since then I know that Jennifer has had many other teachers, and every year she has experienced success. One day this fall, Jennifer made the comment to me, "I am doing really good. Look at my penmanship." Jennifer feels confident now about what she can accomplish. She believes in herself! I really think one of the major goals we have as teachers is to get these children to believe in themselves.

Success...Honor Roll

Don Uetrecht, Resource Room Teacher

John has a high I.Q., but has a learning disability in reading. John is a sophomore this year, and because of all the help he is getting in high school and at home, he has been on the honor roll twice. Because he has a learning disability, John has all his high school material on tape. He knows he can make it in high school. John wants to be a marine biologist, and he knows that he can succeed.

GIVE THE GIFT THAT LASTS LONGER THAN A LIFETIME...

By putting the Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries (LSDSEM) in your will, by securing a gift annuity, a life insurance policy, or giving real estate or stock, you insure the future of the LSDSEM in helping children with special needs.

Jesus said, "Let the children come unto me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of Heaven." Your will is a way to help children with special needs know the love of their Savior.

Your gifts help us reach out and touch young lives with the love of Christ. Our ministry's operational cost per student is \$29.00 per day, \$143.00 per week, and \$570.00 per month. Your gift helps us to spread the love of Christ to these children.

I WOULD LIKE INFORMATION SO I CAN:

- include LSDSEM in my will
- give LSDSEM an insurance policy
- obtain a gift annuity with LSDSEM
- make a gift of stock or real estate to LSDSEM

MAIL TO:
LSDSEM
6861 E. Nevada
Detroit, MI 48234-2983

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

APT. _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

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

S C H O L FOR THE DEAF • SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES LUTHERAN

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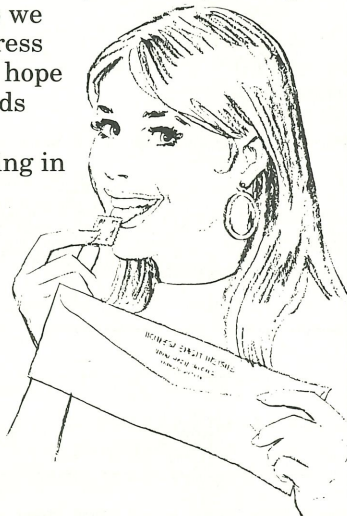
From time to time, a question arises about the phrase above that appears on our envelopes designed for your gifts to be sent to us.

The United States Postal Service requires that we pay 30 cents for each piece of business reply mail that comes back to us. That is 25 cents for first class postage and 5 cents for maintaining a record of fees paid.

When you place a first class stamp on the envelope, we will continue to pay the 30 cent fee, but we later file a report along with the envelope containing the stamp for a full refund of the stamp value.

This process is accomplished with the use of volunteer effort. Among the volunteers involved is Mr. Al Brokop. He is also the individual responsible for address changes. When the USPS notifies us of an address change, we are charged 30 cents. This amounted to \$1,000.00 in 1989. We hope that readers would notify us of any changes or duplications so we can keep our address list accurate. We hope to be good stewards of your gifts. Help us by assisting in this process.

Thank you!



"What Resource Room Means To Our School..."

by Al Samsell,
Principal, Trinity, Mt. Clemens

The resource room through the Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries has been able to broaden our ministry at Trinity.

In the past, when parents would apply for their children to come to our school, if the child had some kind of learning disability, there was no possible way that we could really help them. If it was a minor disability, we might be able to help through the public school district. If the disability required more than just a couple hours a week of special help, we just didn't have the ability to help this child.



So through the resource room, we have expanded into offering an education to a number of different kinds of children that we could not help in the past. Secondly, our teacher is a great resource person. Not only is she able to help those students that are learning disabled, but she is able to talk with teachers about problems that they are having with other students. She is able to give suggestions and ideas to help our teachers working with any child.

I think our resource room has expanded our opportunity to help more children receive a Christian education. We are thankful for this opportunity.

EPHPHATHA AWARD

As in the past years, Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries (LSDSEM) is now accepting nominations for the Ephphatha Award. In recognition of the many dedicated people throughout the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod who have given time and talent to enable children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education, the Board of Directors of LSDSEM established the Ephphatha Award. It is to be presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the Christian education of special needs children in their congregation, community, or the church at large.

Nominations accompanied by a record of service should be made by March 15, 1990 and directed to:

Mr. Roger DeMeyere, Executive Director
Lutheran School for the Deaf
Special Education Ministries
6861 East Nevada
Detroit, Michigan 48234

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| March 30 | Jim Pagels' 25th Anniversary Celebration |
| April 24 | Volunteer Dinner |
| April 25, 26, 27 | Outdoor Education |
| May 9 | Annual Association Meeting |
| June 7 | Graduation |
| October 13 | Fall Festival |