

We are now 'Lutheran Special Education Ministries'

Association delegates, gathering May 9 in Detroit, took a historic step by unanimously approving the new corporate name: Lutheran Special Education Ministries.

Although a historic step in our 117-year history, the precedent for name change was established in 1957 when the name "Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Mute Institute" was changed to "Lutheran School for the Deaf."

For the past two years, the name "Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries" was used to better reflect our changing ministry. Yet, to many, we are still known as the "Deaf School" or "Deaf Insti-

tute." Although we still provide a Christian education for several deaf children, the vast majority are not deaf, but learning disabled.

As a result of our deaf heritage, the Lord has opened the door of our ministry to hundreds of children with special learning needs so that they, too, can obtain a Christian education in preparation for earthly life and, through God's grace, have eternal life. So the name may change, but the mission remains the same. We are committed to helping children with special learning needs receive a Christian, caring special education.

We need your help to spread the Good News to others!

tation. Their recommendation will now be reviewed by the National Commission for Accreditation, which will make a final decision regarding our status this summer.

Although a difficult process, accreditation will serve to affirm and improve a viable ministry to children with special learning needs. For this we are truly thankful.

The report listed some of our outstanding strengths, including:

- * The mission statement and its permeation of communications and programs is a very effective application of the school's philosophy.

- * The school has a respected tradition of competent service to special children upon which it is building the modified and new ministries that meet current and future needs and opportunities.

- * The quality of relationships among staff and students shows genuine caring for one another and contributes to high morale in the school community.

- * Professional and support personnel show a high level of Christian commitment to serving the special children in their care.

Endorsement received from accreditation team

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is nearing completion of its bid to obtain National Lutheran School Accreditation offered through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Board for Parish Services.

The accreditation process began with the hard work of a team of 50 board members, administrators, teachers, support personnel and parents. Their task was to complete an extensive self-study in 11 key areas of ministry, ranging from school relationships to curriculum.

The self-study was then followed by

the evaluation of an 11-member visiting team of education and church leaders from Michigan, New York, Illinois and Nebraska. Dr. Donald Kell, superintendent of Lutheran schools for the Michigan District, served as team chairman. The visitation team's task was to review and evaluate the self-study materials, identify the strengths and weaknesses of our ministry, make recommendations for improvement, and to decide whether or not to recommend our ministry for national accreditation.

We are happy to report that the visitation team unanimously endorsed Lutheran Special Education Ministries for National Lutheran School Accredi-



The National Lutheran Schools Accreditation team that visited Lutheran Special Education Ministries in Detroit.

High school resource room teachers make the difference!

Here are some comments from students and teachers who appreciated the work of one of our resource room teachers, Gloria Burley:

The resource room at Lutheran High North headed by Gloria Burley has directly benefited not only the students I teach, but also me as a teacher.

I appreciate how Gloria determines to have her students be full-fledged participating members of the regular classroom setting. Through the extra assistance they receive in the resource room, they can complete the normal assignments, take the tests and feel comfortable enough with the material being studied to participate in class discussion. The students also benefit from Gloria's willingness to communicate closely with me. Through this, they are prepared for the major tests and other deadlines during the semester.

The availability of the resource room also makes my job easier as a teacher. Gloria is able to spend the extra one-on-one time with the students that I would like to, but simply cannot. Ideally, in the classroom setting, these students would receive the extra time they need to complete the long tests I give, but at the end of 50 minutes, both they and I need to move on to the next class.

In the resource room, they receive the extra time and personal help they need with tests. With Gloria's help and supervision of this test-taking, I can be confident that the tests are valid evaluative instruments.

Similarly, there is simply not enough time for me to give needed help on the homework assignments I give. Yet these students receive individual, direct help in the resource room. Through that help, they can work at a standard high school level and even above.

Thus, the resource room makes it possible not only for these students to be able to be in the normal classroom setting, but also for them to succeed there. I hate to think where both they and I would be without the valuable assistance given them by the resource

room and Mrs. Burley.

Edward Dunklau
Social Studies Department Head
LHSN, Mount Clemens, Mich.

I've learned that someone can help you with your work. I was very stubborn about someone helping me with studying for tests. I hated asking for help because I felt embarrassed to ask a question. Now I feel comfortable to ask any question that I might have. This will help me very much in the world. I learned that I'm not stupid. I just have to study a lot harder to receive good grades on my tests.

Aaron F., Sophomore, LHNW

As a geography teacher at Lutheran High North, the tutorial program has been a great asset. Mrs. Burley helps students work on organizational skills that in turn helps them to take and understand their notes, complete their homework and follow a train of thought.

She has many ways of helping the students to review for tests and many times reads tests to students who struggle with taking written tests. Through this program, our students gain self-confidence and learn to work within their own limits. The tutorial program has greatly benefited all of my students who have been enrolled.

Chris Hoch, Teacher LHN

Mrs. Burley is not only a teacher, she is a very special friend, not only to me but to everyone in her class. Sure, she gets tough sometimes, but it's only because she wants us to be the best we can be. She's helped me a lot since last year. I was so stubborn about homework and tests that I never wanted help. But she taught me how to ask questions when I didn't understand something. She also taught me how to be more organized. My grades still aren't what I'd like them to be, but I'm working on it. The study hall isn't a program with Mrs. B., it's almost like another home. With all the love and care she gives us, I can honestly say that study hall has made me a better person!

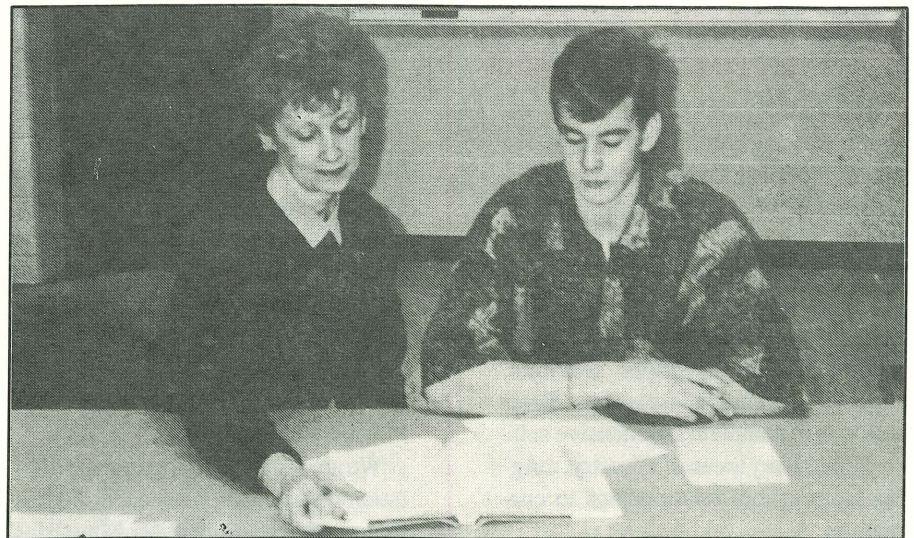
Carrie W., LHN

Since I have been in the resource room, I have learned many new ways to study, which makes it easier for me. It has given me time to get help with homework when I need it. It also allows me to have more time to take my tests. All the teachers have been a great deal of help to me in the resource room.

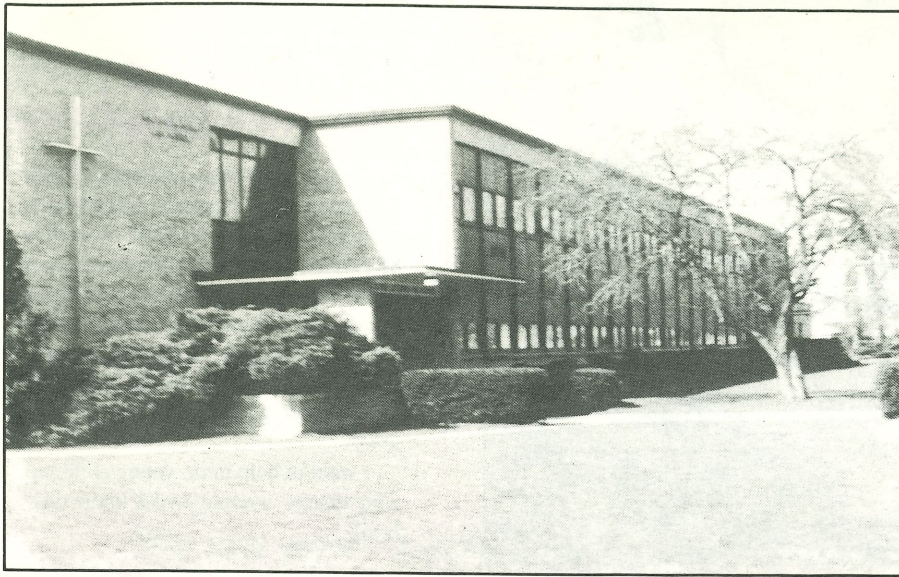
Kim, Freshman LHN

Dates to remember

- Graduation: June 7
- Dr. Holste's retirement celebration: June 15
- Start of 1990-91 school year: Aug. 27
- Fall Festival: Oct. 13



Resource room teacher Gloria Burley with student Scott Landerschier.



Walther Lutheran High School in Chicago, Illinois.

Resource room helping students at Walther High in Chicago, Illinois

At the beginning of the 1989-1990 school year, Lutheran Special Education Services started a resource room at Walther Lutheran High School. Acting as partners, Walther Lutheran High School and Lutheran Special Education Ministries are now able to provide supportive services to a special population.

With the support of Herman Zemke, Don Gillingham, Bob Libka and Cheryl Long, our resource teacher Jone Karuza is able to serve students who have special needs in the high school.

Currently, Karuza is working directly with five students and consulting with teachers as special needs arise within the classrooms. She uses a variety of methods to help students achieve their full potential. These methods include contracts, learning strategies and coping skills.

With the help of Don Williams, an art teacher at Walther, Karuza and some other students have started a small art gallery in their classroom. This experience is very rewarding to the students and helps build self-esteem. Currently, a project of one of Karuza's students is on display at Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois.

Helping students understand that they are God's children and have valuable gifts to contribute to society is just one of the qualities that this program tries to instill.

Also, with the help of Walther's coun-

seling staff, students are screened to determine how best Walther Lutheran High School can serve them. Our program can now help these special needs students receive a Christian education.

Dr. H. Holste retires

Dr. Herman M. Holste, principal at the Detroit school since 1982, will retire at the end of this school year. The school staff will host a celebration on Friday, June 15, at the Georgian Inn Banquet Facility, 31327 Gratiot, Roseville, Mich.

Holste was called as principal in 1982 after a 10-year tenure in Michigan public schools. He had previously served as Detroit school principal 1962-72.

Holste graduated from Concordia, Seward, Neb., with a B.S. degree in education. In 1957, he received a master's degree in education of the deaf at Washington University and Central Institute for the Deaf, St. Louis, Mo. In June 1968, he received the doctor of philosophy degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich.

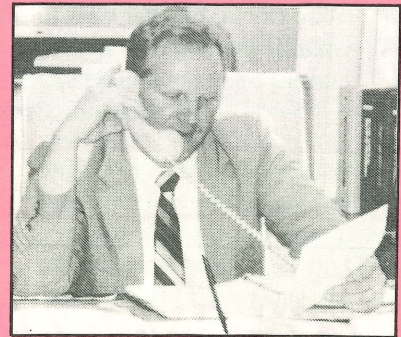
Send in your \$16 dinner reservation and congratulatory letters by June 1 to **Marcia Stickel, Lutheran Special Education Ministries, 6861 E. Nevada, Detroit, MI 48234.**

From our Executive Director:

This school is 'very close to our hearts'

I want to share with you a letter that we recently received from a parent:

"Our youngest son, David, is learning disabled, not seriously, but enough that we had to take him out of his regular third grade classroom and place him in the public schools. He had much more 'on campus' help in the public school and we supplemented the help by enrolling him at the local Learning Clinic.



Roger DeMeyere, Executive Director

"The decision to remove him from our church school was the hardest we ever made. Our three older children all attended the Lutheran schools and now two have graduated from college and one is attending college. David is not happy in the public schools and misses a Christian environment. We work very hard to fill the gap, but there is no better environment than a Christ centered education in our Lutheran school system. I would be willing to do volunteer work for the school if I could.

"I know both sides of the dilemma with a child who has special needs; as a parent and as a board of education member for three years. Serving on my church's board of education, I realized many of our teachers need resources to help these children. As you can see, what you do is very close to our hearts."

Help us help more children like David. Thanks!



Agreement brings special education services to New York

At the Lutheran Education Convocation April 6 in St. Charles, Ill., an agreement was signed by Lutheran Special Education Ministries and Lutheran Schools Association of Eastchester, N.Y., plus five other partners, to bring special edu-

cation services to Lutheran schools in New York City.

Pictured above from left to right are Ben Herbrich, president of Lutheran Schools Association; Roger DeMeyere, executive director of Lutheran Special Education Ministries; and Mel Kieschnick, executive director of Lutheran Schools Association.

Statement of Ministry

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

We need your help!

Your support helps Lutheran Special Education Ministries reach out and touch more young lives with Christ. More than 85 percent of our annual support comes from individuals, churches and other groups that believe in our ministry. Your support does make a difference in a young person's life. More than 352 young lives are being touched by the Savior's love.

I want to help more young children with special learning needs know their Lord!

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____.

- I have included Lutheran Special Education Ministries in my will.
- I want more information on including Lutheran Special Education Ministries in my will.
- I want information about _____ to plan my deferred gifts.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

**Lutheran Special
Education Ministries
6861 E. Nevada
Detroit, MI 48234**

The Advocate

for Students with Special Learning Needs

The ADVOCATE for Students with Special Learning Needs
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