

New partnership program:

Linking you and our students:

The word "pal" is an old word. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the first recorded use of the word "pal" was found in a book dating back to 1681. The meaning of "pal" hasn't really changed a whole lot in the last 300 years. It has always meant a comrade, mate, partner or a close friend.

However, at Lutheran Special Education Ministries, "PAL" stands for something special—even though its meaning hasn't changed. In our ministry, PAL stands for "Partners Advocating Love."

If you've ever wished that you could help a little more, show some special kind of love, just be a special friend to just one special student—you now have that opportunity!

At its September meeting, the Lutheran Special Education Ministries Board of Directors authorized the conception of the Partners Advocating Love Program. If you choose to become part of the PAL Program, you will be paired with one special student.

Your role would not be one of a surrogate parent, but as a partner with Lutheran Special Education Ministries to provide the best possible Christian education for your sponsored child.

As a PAL Partner, you will:

- Make a financial commitment of \$2,000 per year to help provide a Christian education for one student through Lutheran Special Education Ministries.



- Pray for your sponsored student.
- Be a Christian model to that student through your Christian example and lifestyle.
- Try to attend the partnership event held once each year in the Detroit-area and correspond periodically with the student.
- Respect the confidentiality of your relationship with your partners and their families.

In response, each PAL student will:

- Pray for his or her sponsor.
- Attempt to live his or her life expressing God's love for us.
- Correspond with his or her sponsor once each quarter.

Please remember that since our students have special learning needs, read-

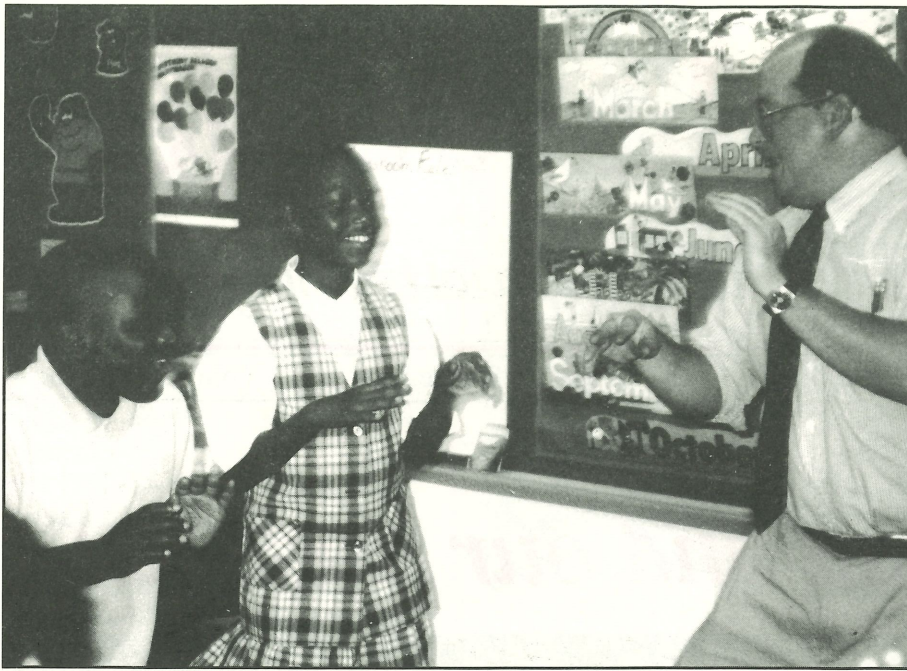
ing your letters or writing to you can be a major effort! Write simply—and expect simple letters in return.

Not a new concept

In 1874, partners in our ministry helped us purchase 20 acres in north-east Detroit. That tract of land is still the location of the North Detroit Lutheran School (our special education day school), the Ephphatha Center and our administrative offices.

During the 1930s, during our nation's deepest Depression, partners—like you—helped us to physically build the residential deaf school building. Our partnership with parents and students alike can be seen in this example of a

(Continued on Page 3)



Students in Mark Brower's class at North Detroit Lutheran.

Around the ministry . . .

Michigan

by Gloria Burley

Stop! Look! Listen!

As children, we all learned to follow those directions when we crossed a street. It was good advice then—and it is good advice now. When faced with decisions involving change, it is wise to stop, look and listen. It gives us precious time to review and assess the needs of our teachers, various satellite schools and students. It gives us time to contemplate how these needs might best be met.

In order to meet these needs, several teachers have been reassigned to different schools within our ministry. It is very difficult to give up familiar faces and places, but we know that God's loving hand will continue to guide all of us who serve Him as we teach His children with special learning needs.

The campus school, North Detroit Lutheran, has seen some changes over the summer too. Thanks to the dedicated and voluntary services of friends and staff members, six small classrooms have been made into three very spacious classrooms. We have new carpeting, new paint and space to breathe! Teachers now have instructional areas as well as reading and learning centers

for one-to-one instruction or small group activities.

If you get the opportunity, **stop** by for a **look** at our "new" classrooms and **listen** to the happy sounds of learning. A very special "Thank you!" to all of you who made it possible!

A blessing to Lutheran Special Education Ministries is Sara Atkinson, our new resource room teacher at Our Saviour, Lansing. Sara and her husband, Pastor Daryll Atkinson, have three children and live in Rivers Junction. Welcome, Sara! May the Lord bless you.

P.S. A special hello to Elsie and Forrest.

New York

by Paula Rosen

The 1992-93 school year promises to be very exciting for Lutheran Special Education Ministries of New York. We have expanded our ministry by placing on-site consultant teachers in four Lutheran schools in the New York area.

This expansion means that children, who otherwise might have been turned away, have been accepted into some of these schools.

The joy on one parent's face when her child was accepted made our hearts sing. We are reaching more and more of

God's special children because of those who open their hearts to this ministry.

And we are reaching out beyond these four schools. I also act as an on-site consultant and workshop presenter to all schools in the Lutheran Schools Association. In March, I will present a workshop to the professors at Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y.

The ministry in New York continues to be actively involved with a group of other religious schools that can open their doors to children with special needs. We share information and work to ensure that our schools receive the services to which they are entitled by the public school districts.

Ephphatha Center

by Kathy Krause

Ephphatha Center and its staff basks in the "Son-light" while following His command to "go and teach all." We are so very pleased to welcome St. Peter Lutheran School in Richmond, Mich., into our ministry family as our newest "on-site" location.

Teachers and parents have the opportunity to meet with our consultant, Mrs. Gail Vahlbusch, every Tuesday afternoon. She provides support to the teachers in how to modify their curriculum and teaching style to meet the needs of students who may experience difficulties. Students learn the value of assignment books and note-taking skills. Parents have the opportunity to talk about homework and organizational concerns. Their pastors have also been involved with supporting families with special needs. Such an outlook demonstrates a partnership in ministry to all His children.

Another reason for rejoicing is the response to a flyer mailed country-wide detailing the help available to pastors and Sunday school teachers concerning religious material for those with special learning needs. The number of inquiries has been overwhelming. We pray that those awaiting a response will understand and be patient.

As always, Ephphatha Center evaluates students to help them in their educational plans: to help them realize the gifts their Lord has given them and how they can best put them to use in His kingdom.

Illinois

by Jim Krone

As a new school year begins, Lutheran Special Education Ministries programs in Illinois are bursting at the seams. On Aug. 17 we started the year with our first faculty meeting, where we updated our teachers with the newest strategies and methods available to help our special children.

Our five teacher/consultants serve four resource rooms and seven consultation sites. Currently, we serve 44 children every day in our resource rooms (the maximum for a half day resource room is nine or 10 children).

The need to serve special needs children in our Lutheran schools is great, but with the current financial status of many of our schools, the costs are still prohibitive.

Our office phone lines at Concordia University in River Forest continue to be filled with calls from new people and new challenges for our ministry. Each phone call from a parent, teacher, school administrator or pastor is a very special part of our outreach/consultation ministry.

Our purpose is very specific in Illinois—as it is within our ministry at large. With the Holy Spirit's help, we are here to enable God's special children learn about Jesus Christ.

Needed for our ministry:

We need a refrigerator for our North Detroit Lutheran School cafeteria. The cost: \$500. If you can help, send donations to 6861 E. Nevada, Detroit, MI 48234.



Campbell Labels for Education program provided this gym equipment, plus many other materials for our ministry. Thank you!

A note from the past

The following resolution was made to delegates at the 1874 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Convention, held in Fort Wayne, Indiana:

From page 77 of the 1874 LCMS Convention Proceedings (translated from the original German):

The Relationship of the Synod to the Charitable Institutes in her midst, viz. Deaf and Dumb Institute near Detroit, Michigan, and the Orphanage at Addison, Illinois.

From the Pastors' and Teachers' Conference of Michigan, a memorial was presented containing the request that the Synod might, upon the request of the owners, take over ownership of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, located near Detroit, Michigan, and until now in private hands, so that it might become a synodical institution.

A similar request was presented by the Orphanage Society in Addison, Illinois, on behalf of the orphanage located there.

Since the Synod is not in a position to participate in the charitable institutions that arise in her midst; since she can only declare her willingness to assume the office of church oversight, if this is requested for these and similar institutions:

Decided (upon the wish of the societies involved) that Synod assume oversight of the Deaf and Dumb Institute near Detroit as well as over the Orphanage located at Addison, that the presidents of the districts in which these institutes are

located be commissioned to watch over these institutes as inspectors, and to give Synod, to which they are responsible, reports concerning the condition of the institute concerned, which shall serve the purpose of awakening and maintaining the concern of our congregations for these institutions.

Editorial Note:

This resolution was passed at the convention. The churches of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod provide voluntary financial support. The Synod does not provide direct funding to our ministry.

Linking us together

(Continued from Page 1)

letter from a parent in the 1940s: "We are receiving letters regularly from our son, and words cannot express our happiness every time one comes. We certainly thank our heavenly Father for the privilege of allowing our boy to attend a Lutheran school."

Today, partners like you and many others around the United States and Canada help us continue to provide a Christian education to learning disabled children in Michigan, Illinois and New York. With your help, we also provide consultation services on behalf of children throughout the nation.

You can help today

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is a nonprofit organization. Since our ministry receives no government aid, we depend on the generosity and commitment of those who believe in our ministry and want to help.

"We are so grateful so many individuals and groups recognize the value of this unique Christian educational support system for special children," says Roger DeMeyere, executive director. "We pray our organization will continue to grow so we can accommodate the special needs of the thousands of children yet unserved."

In this special year for us—our 120th year of service—can we count on you to form a partnership to help a child with special learning needs to receive the one thing that lasts for eternity: the love of Christ?

Life estate: giving, yet retaining

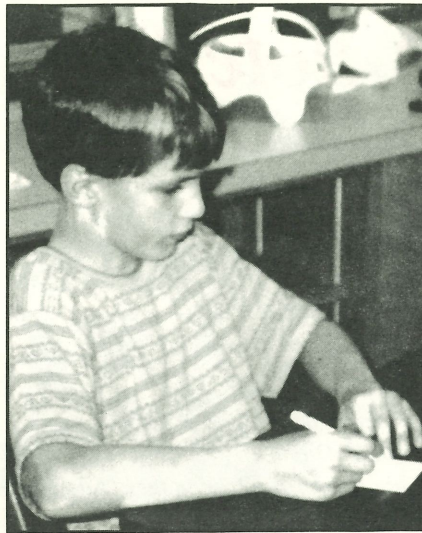
by Eugene Kuebler

When people think of making a gift to a favorite charity, they usually think of two general ways to give:

- A direct gift (like a contribution of cash or transfer of stock or real estate), or
- A gift made after death—through a will or trust.

Few people are familiar with the method of charitable giving that combines some of the advantages of both lifetime gifts and giving through a will. The method that incorporates some of these advantages is known as making a gift through "life estate."

Here is an example that illustrates how a life estate might work: Helen, 70, would like to leave a gift to her favorite charity when she dies. She could also use additional tax deductions because



One student from North Detroit Lutheran School is working on a math assignment.

of her income. When she talked with her tax advisor, she found out that she could give her home to the charity now, but retain a life estate in her home for as long as she lives.

Let's look at how life estates operate. Since she transferred ownership of her home to her favorite charity, the IRS let her take a charitable contribution de-

duction on her income taxes because her home was gifted to the charity. This transfer of ownership ensures that her charity will receive a gift upon her death.

But now we can see the big advantage to a life estate. By retaining "life estate" in her home, Helen has the right to live there and enjoy it for as long as she lives—just as before the life estate plan was completed!

Helen is also still obligated to pay the taxes and other expenses as before. She is also limited as to what type of property she can donate through a life estate: Only personal residences and farm property may qualify.

Life estates provide other planning benefits. Helen's home will not pass through probate, thereby reducing the administration costs on her estate. This gift will also qualify for estate and inheritance tax deductions.

Life estates are a creative estate planning tool. If you are considering a gift to the Lord's work and feel a life estate might be appropriate for you, please return the coupon and we will provide you with more specific details of a life estate.

- Please send me more information concerning a life estate.
 I am interested. Please contact me to arrange a confidential visit to discuss this matter at no cost or obligation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Birth Date: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

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

The ADVOCATE for Students with
Special Learning Needs
—USPS 150-480

Published quarterly by Lutheran Special
Education Ministries (formerly Lutheran
School for the Deaf), 6861 E. Nevada,
Detroit, MI 48234, (313) 368-1220.

Editor: Gregg Braun, Director of
Development

Managing Editor: Roger DeMeyere,
Executive Director

Send all communication regarding the
editing, and ALL ADDRESS CHANGES
to the address above.

The Advocate

for Students with Special Learning Needs

Second Class
POSTAGE
PAID
Detroit, MI

The ADVOCATE for Students with Special Learning Needs
—USPS 150-480

Published quarterly by Lutheran Special Education Ministries
(formerly Lutheran School for the Deaf), 6861 E. Nevada,
Detroit, MI 48234, (313) 368-1220.

Editor: Gregg Braun, Director of Development

Managing Editor: Roger DeMeyere, Executive Director

Send all communication regarding the editing, and
ALL ADDRESS CHANGES to the address above.