

120 years of service to God's children!

Although children, teachers and administrators have come and gone and even our name has changed over the past 120 years, the ministry we accomplish with God's help at Lutheran Special Education Ministries hasn't changed since our work began.

We continue to thank God daily for the opportunities we have to help children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education. Those special children include the learning disabled, educably mentally impaired, severely language impaired, hearing impaired and gifted.

These children—and all others—deserve the chance to succeed in school . . . and to be challenged in a special way.

Our Past

The school was organized in 1873 as an orphanage for Civil War children. One year later, during the convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Pittsburgh, a resolution was passed that encouraged the school to “operate . . . as a school for the deaf exclusively, devote all of our energy and means to the promoting of this worthwhile endeavor.”

Known as the Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Mute Institute, the school started with 17 deaf students—and remained a residential school for the deaf until 1976.

In 1957, the school's name was changed to Lutheran School for the Deaf. That name remained until 1990, when the name was changed to Lutheran Special Education Ministries to reflect the school's changing ministries. Today, al-

though the ministry still provides a Christian education for several deaf children, the vast majority are not deaf, but learning disabled.

The school's physical campus changed a lot over the years. Back in August 1874, “A 20 acre plot, at Norris Station, near the Bay City Railroad, having fruit trees and a good barn and residence on it and good soil indicating a fine water supply (well-water) was finally purchased in August of 1874 for the sum of \$5,000. Building operations were begun at once so that a new building might be completed before the winter of 1874.”

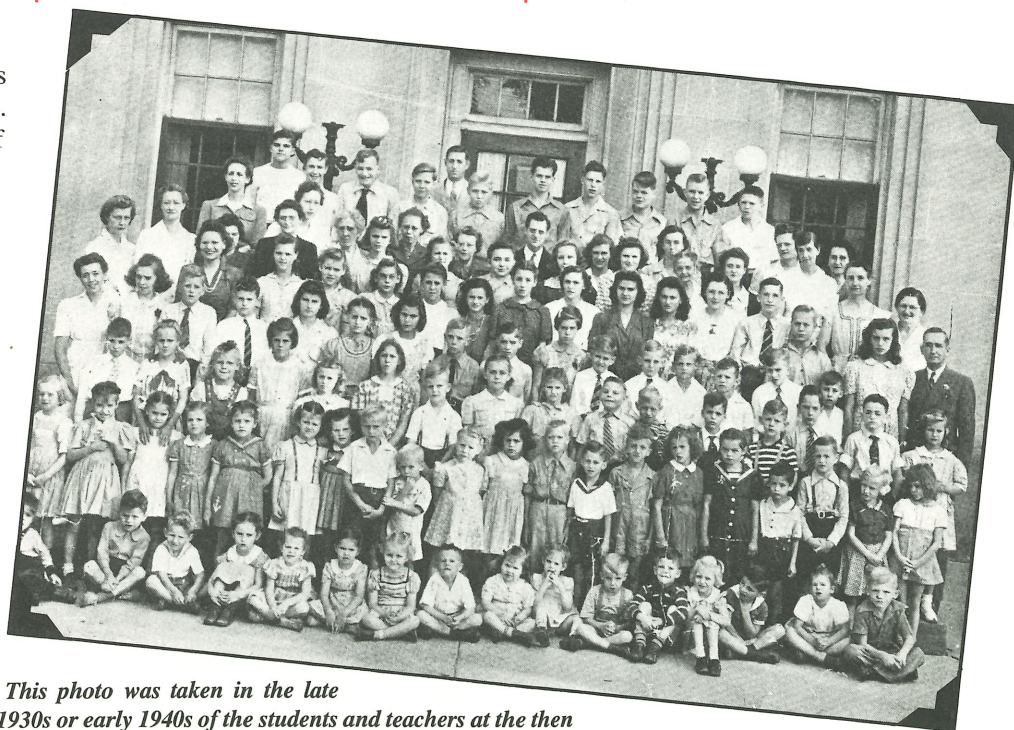
In succeeding years—and not with-

out intensive fund-raising efforts—the school added to the original building. A new building was built in 1940, including residence halls for boys and girls. The boy's dormitory was expanded in 1947, followed by a new kitchen and pavilion.

Rev. George Philip Speckhardt was the school's first superintendent; his work was followed by that of H. Uhlig; Rev. H.A. Bentrup; Rev. William Gielow; Dr. John A. Klein; Walter Bellhorn; Rev. Rodney Rynearson; and current executive director Roger DeMeyere.

During Klein's 54 years as a teacher, principal and executive director, beginning in 1908, two films were completed about the school: “Ephphatha” and “The World of Silence.” Much of the construction work at the school was accomplished during his tenure.

The October 1939 issue of the “Deaf Child's Advocate” newsletter, pictured



This photo was taken in the late 1930s or early 1940s of the students and teachers at the then Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Mute Institute.

on this page with Dr. Klein and student Beverly Kropp on the cover, first appeared in 1930.

Focused on our future

In 1975, federal law mandated that public schools provide education for all handicapped children—including the deaf. This law and medical advances dramatically reduced the number of deaf children attending the school.

School leaders realized that this situation gave Lutheran Special Education Ministries the opportunity to provide Christian education to hearing children with special learning needs—simply because traditional Lutheran schools would not be able to provide this critical need.

Today, Lutheran Special Education Ministries moves confidently into the years ahead, working to help Lutheran schools and congregations provide special care to children with learning disabilities.

Our services include:

■ Ephphatha Center

The Ephphatha Center, named for the Aramaic word “ephphatha” which

means “be opened,” was established in 1984. The Ephphatha Center offers professional evaluation and guidance to recognize each child’s strengths and acceptance of weaknesses, enabling each child to develop to his or her fullest potential.

Since 1984, the Ephphatha Center has evaluated and consulted on behalf of more than 2,000 children from around the country, enabling these children to receive the help they need.

■ Resource Rooms

Where can a Lutheran elementary or high school student who is learning disabled go to receive help with schoolwork? In numerous schools in the Detroit and Chicago areas, children can go to a resource room and receive one-on-one help in their problem areas.

■ On-Site Consultants

Our work continues to change to meet increasing needs. In 1991, the on-site consultant program was created as a response to a need for a cost-efficient way to reach more students. The consultants work with regular classroom teachers in Michigan, Illinois and New

York to provide teaching techniques to help learning disabled children.

As the years pass, our work continues to grow: the needs are ever-present and ever-growing. Thank you for all your help in supporting our ministry and please join us to give thanks to our Lord for all the blessings He has given us!

Comments from our Executive Director: Roger DeMeyere

Our 120th year! I can’t begin to share my excitement about the new school year without telling you the wonderful news from last year! Lutheran Special Education Ministries ended the 1991-92 school year with 373 children enrolled in special education programs. And 696 children received consultation or testing services—for a grand total served of 1,069.

We thank God for the opportunity He’s given us to touch the lives of so many children . . . and their families.

But there’s more to be thankful for! Although direct instructional services are located primarily in metropolitan Detroit, Chicago and New York, we have also developed outreach consultation services for schools and congregations.

During the 1991-92 school year, we worked with 127 schools and congregations from 21 states. I thank God for making this all possible!

As I think about all the children who have been helped this year, and the fact that we are entering our 120th year of operation, I wonder what some of the great people in the history of our ministry would think if they were here.

What about Rev. Speckhardt, the first teacher of the orphanage and Deaf Institute? Or Dr. Klein, who spent 54 years here as a teacher, principal and executive director? Would they be pleased? Would they have accepted the changes that have taken place?

I’m sure they would affirm us, because they wanted Christ’s love to be revealed through a ministry of service to children with special learning needs. That mission is as evident today as it was 120 years ago.

I feel so blessed to be a part of this ministry! To those partners in His service from the past, present and future, I say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant!”



Annual meeting sets budget; elects board members

On May 13, Lutheran Special Education Ministries held its annual meeting. For the first time in the ministry's 119-year history, two women were elected to the Board of Directors. The delegates also approved a \$1,912,000 budget for the next fiscal year.

The keynote address for the evening meeting was given by W. Clark Durant III, an attorney and 1990 candidate for the U.S. Senate. Durant spoke on the topic of a Christ-centered education for all. Since it was his birthday, the delegates surprised Durant with a birthday cake and greetings.

Elected to the Board of Directors for the first time is Delberta (Del) Jennings, a licensed practical nurse. Mrs. Jennings is a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan.

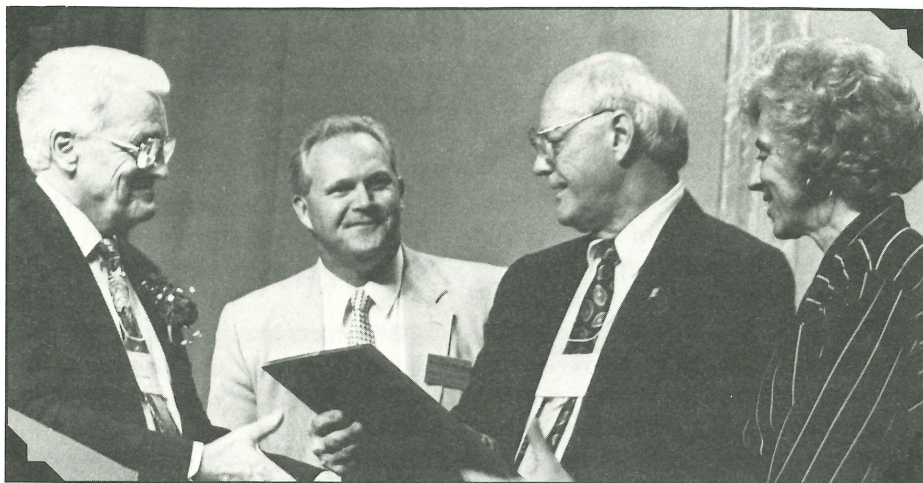
Also elected is Karen Russell, an attorney with Phillips and Russell of Birmingham, Michigan. Ms. Russell is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Mount Clemens, Michigan.

Reelected to the board are Terry Davis, principal of St. Peter Lutheran School in Mount Clemens, and Donald Rutter, retired general manager of George Auch Construction Company. Rutter is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is committed to opening the doors of Christian education to children with special learning needs.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries Board of Directors

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Lutheran Special Education Ministries awarded its 1992 Ephphatha Award to Dr. Earl Gaulke, director of the editorial unit of the LCMS Board for Parish Services. The award was presented at the Synod's convention in Pittsburgh. From left, LCMS President Ralph Bohlmann; Roger DeMeyere, executive director of Lutheran Special Education Ministries; Gaulke; and Gaulke's wife, Margaret. Based on the Aramaic word for "to open," the Ephphatha Award recognizes dedicated service to open doors of Christian education for children with special learning needs.

Dr. Earl Gaulke receives 1992 Ephphatha award

Dr. Earl Gaulke, director of the editorial unit of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Board for Parish Services in St. Louis, Mo., has been recognized for providing Christian education for children with special learning needs.

Gaulke received the Ephphatha Award from Lutheran Special Education Ministries, an agency that provides special education services to Lutheran schools in the Detroit, New York and Chicago areas. The award was presented July 16 at the Synod's convention in Pittsburgh.

"It is our prayer that by turning the spotlight on a humble man, people will be moved to follow his example and share a vision to open the doors of Christian education to children with special learning needs," said Roger DeMeyere, executive director of Lutheran Special Education Ministries.

For more than 30 years, Gaulke has served as editor and supervisor of staff who prepare LCMS materials for Sunday school, vacation Bible school, confirmation instruction and Bible studies for youth and adults.

DeMeyere said Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, president of the Synod, nominated Dr. Gaulke for the award. In his nomination, Bohlmann noted that Gaulke has worked to assure that all materials are made available in braille and large type.

Gaulke also has supported develop-

ment of special education teacher's guides, materials for the developmentally disabled and catechism materials for the deaf.

As he accepted the Ephphatha Award, Gaulke cited statistics that 20 million people in the United States have special learning needs. "They are very special people—people for whom Christ died," he said, adding that they also need to hear the message of God's forgiveness. He commended the efforts of his co-workers in the Board for Parish Services and at Concordia Publishing House in producing special materials.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries, formerly Lutheran School for the Deaf, established the Ephphatha Award in 1984. The annual award recognizes people in the Missouri Synod for significant efforts in providing Christian education to people with special learning needs. "Ephphatha" is a word from the Aramaic language that was spoken by Jesus Christ. It means "to be opened" or "to open."

In addition to providing on-site services to Lutheran schools in Detroit, New York and Chicago, Lutheran Special Education Ministries offers consulting services to Lutheran schools throughout the United States. Its Ephphatha Center provides testing for children and consulting for teachers and parents of children with learning disabilities.

Success is . . .

by Johanna Hilpert, Teacher

Success is measured in so many ways at our school! It might be the mastery of just one step in a process or it might be the completion of an entire project.

Success involves the whole staff—administrators, teachers, board members, volunteers and students. Everyone is involved in creating an environment where children can feel loved and accepted by God and others. This is the fertile ground where our students can accept themselves and begin to learn.

■ **Success is . . .** hugs and tears shared by a 9-year-old girl and her teacher when she finished her first series of readers and she realized that she was able to read.

■ **Success is . . .** a student being able to sit and do his work well after starting on medication that helps him focus and concentrate.

■ **Success is . . .** getting over the fear of thunder, lightning and loud noises by learning to express your fears out loud.

■ **Success is . . .** learning spelling words by using a computer when in the past spelling tests were severe strains.

■ **Success is . . .** leading class devotions and prayers when previously you couldn't remember who wanted to pray.

■ **Success is . . .** sitting under the drinking fountain so that you can finish a book while others are getting ready for lunch.

■ **Success is . . .** mastering a new math concept using manipulatives when

in the past you struggled with simple facts.

■ **Success is . . .** learning new words by using a Language Master where you can hear and see the word at the same time, when previously you used the same words over and over.

■ **Success is . . .** writing a complete sentence with a capital letter and a period, when in the past you only wrote words.

■ **Success is . . .** writing a half or whole page in your journal, when in the past you could not write a single sentence.

■ **Success is . . .** Lutheran Special Education Ministries.

It pays to give it away

The Lord's words, "It is better to give than to receive," uniquely apply to Christians who plan their gifts to the Lord.

Take the Martins, for example. They want to give their house to charity after they both pass away. By placing their house in a "life estate," the Martins actu-

ally give the house now, but retain a legal "life interest" in the property that gives them all its benefits while they're alive. They gain a significant tax deduction in addition to benefiting from the use or profit, if any, of the property.

Another example: Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman own stock with strong earnings, but paying low dividends. They are considering contributing the stock to Lutheran Special Education Ministries through a Pooled Income Fund managed by the LCMS Foundation.

This fund concentrates on income rather than growth. In effect, the Hoffmans would make a tax-free switch from their low-yield growth stock to a high income-producing property. Their gift is merged with gifts from other donors. They would be entitled to receive their share of the income earned by the fund.

Christians give to the Lord because they are thankful for faith and salvation. Realizing this may encourage us to give more. For more information or a personal contact, clip and return the coupon below.

- Please send me information on writing a will.
- Please send me information on estate planning.
- Please contact me for a confidential visit to discuss this matter at no cost or obligation.

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for Students with Special Learning Needs

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