

The Advocate

for Students with Special Learning Needs

Fall 1999 Serving Children with Special Learning Needs Since 1873 Volume 68, Issue 3

LSEM NOW IN SOUTHWEST REGION

Children with special learning needs in Southern California, Arizona, and Nevada will be receiving help from Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) headquartered in Detroit, MI.

On Friday, July 16, 1999, LSEM signed a partnership agreement with California Lutheran University, ELCA; Concordia University, Irvine, CA, LCMS; Lutheran Schools of Southern California, ELCA and the Pacific Southwest District, LCMS.

The partners intend to begin providing special education services to the estimated 100 partnership schools in the 2000-2001 school year.

"It was truly an amazing day," says LSEM President/CEO Roger DeMeyere. "There were smiles all around. Some people were even crying with joy. You could just sense the excitement in the air. You could feel the Spirit of God moving in that room. It was wonderful."

The Director of School Ministries of the Pacific Southwest District, Rachel Klitzing, agrees. "The educators of the Lutheran schools in the

Pacific Southwest District and I are tremendously excited about our partnership with LSEM! God has truly blessed the efforts of many who have worked to make this partnership a reality. We are deeply grateful to President Roger DeMeyere for his inspirational leadership and we look forward to our shared ministry with LSEM as we reach out to children with special learning needs."

"It was both empowering and inspiring to meet with many Lutheran colleagues," says Dr. Silva Karayan, acting director, Special Education Program of the School of Education at California Lutheran University, "as president



Back L-R: Rev. Dr. Loren Kramer, President, PSW; Rachel Klitzing, Director of School Ministries PSW; Rev. Dr. JAO Preus, President, Concordia Irvine. Front L-R: Dr. Silva Karayan, Acting Director, Special Education Program, School of Education, California Lutheran University; Roger DeMeyere, President/CEO, LSEM and Robert Federwitz, Director of Lutheran Schools of Southern California, ELCA.

Roger DeMeyere shared with us LSEM's national vision to reach out to Lutheran and other Christian denominations to open the doors of schools and congregations for children with special learning needs. The faculty and students at California Lutheran University's School of Education are looking forward to this partnership."

HELP WANTED: DIRECTOR FOR THE SOUTHWEST REGION

If you know of anyone who is an experienced, certified Lutheran teacher with a heart for children with special learning needs, WE NEED HER OR HIM.

Please have that person e-mail his or her resume to

LSEM@luthsped.org. Or fax it to: 313/368-0159. Or mail it to: Lutheran Special Education Ministries, Att: Southwest Region Director Position, 6861 E. Nevada, Detroit, MI 48234.

Questions? Then please e-mail President/CEO Roger DeMeyere at: rdemeyere@luthsped.org or call him at: 313/368-1220.

MORE NEW'S

NEW Posters

This is the first time in 10 years that LSEM has produced a poster (pictured within this article.) The headline above the photo reads: "Let's shine the light of Christ into Tony's darkness." Then the text below the photo explains that even a Christian like Tony can be in the dark because his special learning need can prevent him from attending a Christian school - unless his Christian school is in partnership with LSEM.

A unique feature of this poster is its clear plastic literature holder that keeps LSEM brochures within reach.

NEW Bulletin Blurbs

Bulletin/newsletter blurbs are now available. They explain what our ministry does; what special learning needs are and what it takes to enable children to receive a Christian education.

These blurbs come in a long series (12 blurbs) and a short series (6 blurbs). It's a handy way to get the word out about LSEM and to help people in charge of producing the church bulletin or newsletter.

Will You Help Us?

Will you help us get the word out about LSEM in your congregation? It's easy. Just ask for a poster and/or bulletin blurbs. To do that, please call the Development Department at 313/368-1220. (Or you can now e-mail us. See the related article.)

NEW E-mail Address

You can now communicate with us via e-mail. Our new address is: LSEM@luthsped.org.

Hope to see you in cyberspace soon!

"Operation Confirmation" Helps Teachers of Confirmation

Through "Operation Confirmation," we'll provide a six-page guide free-of-charge to teachers of Confirmation.

Entitled "Adapting Curriculum and Instruction for Students with Special Learning Needs," this easy-to-use guide gives practical help to the Confirmation teacher who has a student who seems to have difficulty understanding the material.

Some of the helps included in this guide are:

—Keep students who are

easily distracted close to the teacher.

—Use non-competitive games for review and reinforcement of the lesson.

—Allow the student to say memory work privately to the teacher instead of in front of the class.

For your free guide, call or write: Lutheran Special Education Ministries; 6861 E. Nevada; Detroit, MI 48234; PH: 313-368-1220.

CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS

We continue to need labels from Campbell's products. Through the program "Campbell's Labels for Education," we have purchased equipment like cassette player/recorders, electronic spelling devices, place value boards, computer programs, listening centers, a TV/VCR, learning games and other educational tools so essential in teaching children with special learning needs. Children in all our programs - in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and New York - have benefited.

When you send in your labels, please prepare them in the following manner: Tie bundles with white string only. 500 labels to a bundle. Please do not use staples or rubber bands.

LSEM PRESENCE AT ILWML AND WELCA

This summer, we had our display at both the International Lutheran Womens' Missionary League and the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church conventions.

Please pray that the women who attended these conventions will be moved to support our ministry.

LSEM RECEIVES MORE THAN \$10,000 IN MATCHING GIFTS FROM AAL

So far this year, LSEM has received \$10,381.00 in matching gifts through the new "Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) Member Gift-Matching Program."

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Around the Ministry

Illinois

by *Jim Krone, Director
Illinois Programs*

The new school year is off to a great start; we are serving more children than last year. With this growth, we've added six more teachers.

Four of them, **Carolyn Mahal, Jennifer Bower, Stacy Bunker** and **Shawn Stewart**, are new to the teaching profession and have been assigned mentors. The other two, **Patrice Bates** and **Gretchen Musa**, are veteran special education teachers.

This growth has also made it necessary for me to delegate more responsibilities. We now have some teachers who serve as coordinators. They lead a small group of teachers within their geographical areas, mainly providing professional support.

Grants from the "Chicagoland Lutheran Education Fund" have allowed more struggling city schools to provide special education services and have contributed to LSEM's growth.

Please keep all our teachers and staff in your prayers while they strive to do God's work God's way.

Indiana

by *Valerie Hughes, Director
Indiana Programs*

We welcome two brand new partnership schools this year, Wyneken Memorial in Decatur and Central Lutheran in New Haven.

We also welcome four new teachers. They are:

Suzanne Koehlinger holds a bachelor's degree in special education and hearing impaired

and she serves Central Lutheran.

Sarah May just graduated from Valparaiso University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and an endorsement in learning disabilities. Sarah serves Wyneken Memorial.

Linda McKee holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and an endorsement in mild disabilities. Linda serves Holy Cross and St. John, Kendallville.

Serving St. John, Monroeville, is **Jim Meyers**. He holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's in counseling.

Nancy Fineran, Dana Hardy, Jenny Holloway, and Deb Koehlinger all returned this year. God's blessings to such a talented and dedicated staff.

Michigan

by *Kathy Krause, Director
Michigan Programs*

As the last hints of summer fade slowly into our Midwestern skies and we prepare for crisp winds, autumn leaves, and less sunlight . . . another school year begins.

Michigan is blessed with 27 partnership schools this year and a staff of 20 wonderful teachers.

Two new schools: Trinity-St. Joseph and St. Matthew-Westland.

New staff:

Lynn Standfest serves the main campus of St. John-Rochester.

Jill Lubbers is at Trinity-St. Joseph.

Serving Cornerstone-Nevada, Greenfield-Peace and Calvary-Lincoln Park is **Marlene Herzog**.

Kim Albrecht is at St. John-Fraser and St. Peter-Macomb.

As the Lord transforms our season, we are assured that His love is constant and never changes.

New York

by *Paula Rosen, Director
New York Programs*

Lutheran Special Education Ministries' teachers have returned to their classrooms, each talking about her or his students as "my kids."

For the first time in the history of the New York programs, our staff remains the same. No one has left and, as of this writing, we have not hired any new teachers, although we are still hoping to fill four part-time positions.

Now in its fourth year of partnership with Lutheran Special Education Ministries, Martin Luther High School has a full-time resource room, its first. Our high school program has been very successful. We are very proud of the students who have done so well.

Ephphatha Center

by *Kathy Krause, Director
Ephphatha Center*

As microcosms of our society, our churches/congregations have both children and adults who may experience difficulty reading or understanding printed material. Helping these members is especially difficult for most pastors and volunteer teachers, since few are trained in special education.

Where do they go? Whom do they ask for help? What resources are available?

The answer to all three questions is: the Ephphatha Center. Through the Ephphatha Center, our resource specialists answer questions from pastors and teachers all across the country. If you'd like one of our specialists to help you, please e-mail the Ephphatha Center at: Ephphatha@luthsped.org. Or you may phone: 313/368-1220.

Together and through Christ's power, we can help these members of your congregation. "I can do anything through Him who gives me strength". Phil. 4:13.

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LUTHERAN SPECIAL
EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Share Our Joy!

by Gregg Braun
Development Director

The article on the cover of this *Advocate* talks about our ministry's growth into a new place, enabling even more children with special learning needs to receive that Christian education. Reaching out and continuing to grow is a good thing. It's been said that the moment you stop growing is the moment you die. What's true of people is also true of organizations. (I'm glad I'm a part of an organization that's so alive!)

As I read that article on the cover, something else struck me, too. I wondered: Are we also growing within the regions we've been serving for years? Are we also enabling more children with special learning needs within these regions to receive a Christian education?

I then decided to do a little digging. With the help of my secretary, B.J., I came up with some interesting figures. Let

me share them with you.

In 1996 our folks in Illinois served 821 children. By 1999, they had served 1,154. *This was a 40.5% increase.*

But this is not a fluke. Take Michigan, for example. In Michigan, in 1996, we served a total of 530 children. Three years later, in 1999, we served 1,200 children. *This was a 126% increase.*

These increases were also repeated ministerially wide. In 1996, we served a total of 1,956 children. By 1999, that number grew to 3,187, *an overall increase of 62.9%.*

So we have grown. We have grown into new regions. We have grown by serving new children. We have grown in our outreach.

To meet these need, our budget has grown, too. In 1996, our budget was \$1,896,000. Three years later, in 1999, our budget is \$3,200,550. This 68.8% increase represents the costs of serving more children -

teacher salary, textbooks, and computer programs, for example.

Serving more children and having a budget to meet those needs is, indeed, good news. We rejoice and give thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has blessed this ministry so much.

Please lift your voice along with our voices, praising and thanking our gracious Lord. Please fold your hands with ours in prayer, asking God to sustain our ministry as we continue to serve children with special learning needs.

And please share your financial gifts with us, helping support God's work through us. (We've provided an envelope within this publication for your convenience.)

I pray you will do all these things. May our Lord continue to bless you and keep you in His care.