

# The Advocate

for Students with Special Learning Needs

Winter/Spring 1999

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## New Partnership Formed: LSEM Now In Minnesota

After many months of prayer, preparation, discussion and negotiation, three partners signed an agreement to provide "A New Beginning in Christ" to children with special learning needs in Minnesota.

The signing of this consortium agreement took place on April 22, 1999 on the campus of Concordia University-St. Paul. The signers were: Dr. Robert Holst, president of Concordia University-St. Paul; David Roth, executive director of Christian education for the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Roger DeMeyere, President/CEO of Lutheran Special Education Ministries.

By their signing this agreement, the three parties pledged to join in partnership to provide special education services to the estimated 600 Lutheran school students in Minnesota who have special learning needs.

"What was once only a dream is now a reality," says DeMeyere. "I am so thankful for the cooperation of the Minnesota South District of the LCMS and Concordia University. I am

confident that the Lord will bless our work together so that hundreds of children with special learning needs will be helped."

The signing of this consortium agreement at Concordia University-St. Paul was no accident; Concordia University will become the headquarters of Lutheran Special



(L-R) Roger DeMeyere, LSEM President/CEO; David Roth, executive director of Christian education for the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Dr. Robert Holst, president of Concordia University-St. Paul sign the consortium agreement that inaugurates a "new beginning in Christ" for children with special learning needs in Minnesota.

Education Ministries' Minnesota Region.

"Concordia St. Paul is committed to providing quality teachers for our Lutheran schools," says President Holst. "The consortium will give our university students more contact with special education programming and help them become even better teachers. As a

Christian university, Concordia is pleased to have this opportunity to help students with special needs know Jesus Christ and lead productive lives."

With LSEM providing the services and Concordia University serving as the headquarters and a conduit for new graduates in special education, the Minnesota South District's role is as a liaison between LSEM on the one hand and Lutheran congregations and schools on the other.

"Our schools and churches are looking forward to working with LSEM to provide these much needed services to our students," says David Roth.

According to DeMeyere, the next step is to hire a director of Minnesota programs. As this *Advocate* goes to press, a request for applicants for this position has gone out to all 50 LCMS principals in the Minnesota South District.

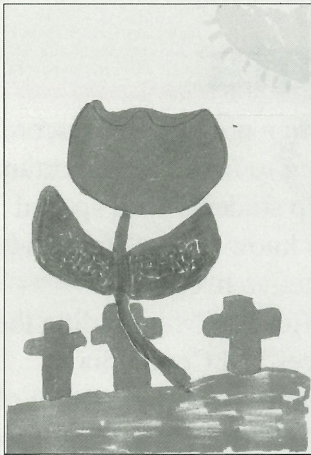
Information will also be sent to the more than 250 LCMS congregations in Minnesota South and "help wanted" ads placed in the district supplement and other Lutheran newspapers.

## New Minnesota Brochure Designed

To help promote LSEM's ability to now serve children in Minnesota, a new Minnesota brochure has been designed.

### A New Beginning in Christ

- for you, for children with special learning needs -



in Minnesota

LUTHERAN  
**Special Education**  
Minnesota Region MINISTRIES

6861 East Nevada, Detroit, MI 48234-2983  
(313) 368-1220 FAX (313) 368-0159

Using the theme "A New Beginning in Christ," this brochure briefly explains what LSEM is, what it does and what that means to the children with special learning needs in Minnesota.

If you know of such a child or if you have a heart for children and would like to financially support this new venture, you can request your free copy of this brochure by contacting the Development Department at LSEM's Detroit headquarters, 6861 E. Nevada, Detroit, MI 48234; 313/368-1220.

## LSEM Teacher Instructs Her Students in the "4 'R's'"

Students in Kay Ramsey's class learn more than the traditional three "R's." In addition to 'readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic,' education for these students at Trinity Lutheran School has also meant "Red Wings."

keeping the team's statistics.

They have learned other lessons as well. When hockey player Vladimir Konstantinov was paralyzed in an auto accident, Ramsey's class created get-well cards for him.

Through this art project, the



John Wharton, head trainer for the Detroit Red Wings' hockey team, is surrounded by LSEM students and LSEM teacher Kay Ramsey (far right) at Trinity Lutheran School, Clinton Township, MI.

Within the last two years, the Detroit Red Wings' professional hockey team has won hockey's coveted Stanley Cup. Detroit area residents support this sport so strongly and have done so for so many years that Detroit has earned the nickname "Hockeytown."

Given such hockey mania, Ramsey decided to use the hockey team as a topic for her lessons.

For example, Ramsey's students have improved their reading and analytical abilities through their regularly reading about the Red Wings in the newspapers and then answering questions about what they read. Her students have also improved their mathematical ability by

students demonstrated compassion for others, one of the many moral lessons that are a regular part of their Christian education through Lutheran Special Education Ministries at Trinity Lutheran School in the Detroit suburb of Clinton Township.

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# Around the Ministry

## Illinois

by *Jim Krone, Director  
Illinois Programs*

Since spring is the time for clean-up, we've decided to "clean-up" our Illinois programs.

We "clean-up" by asking lots of questions of parents, teachers, principals and pastors to find out what we're doing well in serving their students and what we can do differently to serve them better.

This evaluation will help us more clearly understand the needs of children so we can improve our service to them.

In the midst of this spring "clean-up," we're also preparing for new growth. For example, we will be serving more children next year. We've also hired a new teacher who began her duties in March, Stacy Bunker.

A graduate of Concordia University in Seward, NE, Stacy did her student teaching at Trinity Lutheran School in Roselle under LSEM teacher Debbie Calabrese. She is now caring for students at two schools. We thank the Lord for sending us such a dedicated teacher in Stacy.

## Indiana

by *Valerie Hughes, Director  
Indiana Programs*

As my teachers and I work to create an individual education plan for each of our students so that she or he can continue the academic progress made this school year, I am constantly reminded of our opportunity to share God's message. "The Lord your God has chosen you out of

all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his . . . treasured possession." (Deuteronomy 7b)

God tells us that everyone is unique. As Christian educators we are blessed to share this truth.

A special thank you to the great staff in Indiana for making my job so much easier. You make a difference each and every day! ". . . being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6.)

## Michigan

by *Kathy Krause, Director  
Michigan Programs*

Reading a good book is an activity that most of us enjoy.

Unfortunately, this is not the case for many of our students. Some of them have a special need that affects their reading, making reading a chore and not a pleasure.

To help these students, our teachers must often use unconventional means. One example of such creativity is contained in the lesson plan of Kay Ramsey. (See the article "LSEM Teacher Instructs Her Students In The 4 R's" on p. 2)

Although it is still a struggle for them, these students now enjoy reading. What a precious gift Kay has given them!

## New York

by *Paula Rosen, Director  
New York Programs*

Two new teachers recently joined our staff.

They are Alison Roth at Immanuel Lutheran in Whitestone, New York, and Deana Salmonese at Holy Trinity Community School in Hollis. Both teachers are graduate students in special education and both are bringing new and creative ideas to their students. We are thrilled to have them.

Our first two high school resource students will graduate this spring. One plans to become a special education teacher to help kids as he was helped by his LSEM teachers. We are so proud of these students.

## Ephphatha Center

by *Kathy Krause, Director  
Ephphatha Center*

Lutheran Special Education Ministries proudly announces the arrival of Anna Grace Krenz. Born to the Reverend Stephen and Ephphatha Resource Specialist Lisa Krenz on Monday, April 26, 1999 at 12:32 AM.

Anna will be exposed to God's Word on a regular basis and she will experience the love of her Savior. A happy family picture.

This picture is not just for the Krenz's; it is also for every family who has a child with a special learning need.

Through The Ephphatha Center, we provide consultation and suggest Christian educational resources that teach about God's love in terms children with special learning needs can understand.

To receive this help, just call 313/368-1220 or write us at: LSEM, ATT: The Ephphatha Center, 6861 E. Nevada, Detroit, MI 48234.

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*for Students with Special Learning Needs*

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

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## Creative Donors

*by Gregg Braun  
Development Director*

In her "Around the Ministry" article in this newsletter, Kathy Krause talked about the creativity of her teachers in helping students learn.

I heartily agree; our LSEM teachers are some of the most creative, caring and dedicated professionals I've ever seen

But you know what? They're not the only ones supporting this ministry who are blessed with creativity. From my vantage point as development director, I see many of our donors demonstrating strong credentials in that department.

*Donors? Creative?* What do you mean, you ask. After all, how many different ways are there to give money creatively--- and legally?

Quite a few, actually. You'd be surprised. For example, one donor I know contributed his car to an organization that sells used automobiles and gives the proceeds to a charity of donor's

choice. This donor chose LSEM as the beneficiary.

Then there was the donor who created a gift annuity, an insurance policy that produced income for our organization.

In addition there are many, many others who can make \$100 into \$200 - or even \$300 - with the wave of a pen. No, they don't also pull rabbits out of hats. What they DO do, however, is take advantage of gift-matching programs offered by Lutheran Brotherhood, the Association for Lutherans or their employers.

Then there are the others who want to continue returning to the Lord what He has already given them - even after they move into their heavenly mansions. These people have remembered LSEM in their wills.

So you see, there ARE many creative ways to financially support LSEM. Perhaps one of the ones I've mentioned appeal to you. Perhaps you have a unique idea of your own. Whatever the case, please feel free to give me a call when you'd like to do something special for special

children. I'll be happy to answer your questions. You can reach me at 313/368-1220 or write to me, Gregg Braun, Development Department, LSEM, 6861 E. Nevada, Detroit, MI 48234.

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Recently the Red Wings' trainer, John Wharton, came to speak just to Ramsey's class. For about an hour Wharton fielded students' questions, then autographed posters and he even allowed them to try on his Stanley Cup ring. The students reciprocated by presenting Wharton with his favorite snack and a hand-drawn "Keep the Cup" poster to inspire the team.

Kay Ramsey is just one of the 54 LSEM teachers throughout this ministry whose heart for children and love for their Lord Jesus motivates them to creatively do their very best for these special children each and every day. Please say a little prayer for them that God continues to strengthen them in this most precious work.