



## Reading Club: It's All in a Name

Students who must leave the "regular" classroom to work with a Lutheran Special Education Ministries teacher sometimes feel excluded from their classmates. Such feelings can eventually cause the student to be resentful of needing special help and can make learning in an individualized setting less enjoyable and more challenging.

In the second grade class at St. John Lutheran School, Wheaton, Ill., however, students beg to go more often. That's because special education teacher Gretchen Musa, with the help of classroom teacher Valerie Toth, came up with a special name for the time that Musa teaches students in her special class. It's called a "Reading Club."

"I have other students ask when they can come with me almost weekly," says Musa, who has been teaching at



Emily, Carlee, and Michael read a book together during Reading Club time.

St. John for Lutheran Special Education Ministries for five years. "I never know how to tell the the other students in the classrooms that they'll never need to come with me because they don't need extra reading help."

When Musa arrives at the classroom to take her students to the Reading Club, the girls immediately greet her

with a hug. They jump up and down and say, "Yay!" because they realize it is their special time with Musa.

In Reading Club students work on many of activities, including worksheets to practice individual skills, word sorts, songs, reading stories orally and working on the computer.

Since Musa works with the students during the regular class computer lab time once a week, the computer is a natural addition to the group's activities. They work on exercises targeted at each student's specific needs. The program used, *Working Phonics CD*, is useful for Musa because the students working on the computer are relatively independent while she works with another student. In addition, the program prints reports for Musa so she can see where each student is improving.

Who would have guessed that receiving extra help could be so much fun? Perhaps it is all about how the activity is named.

### Presenting . . . our new logo

With this edition of The Advocate, Lutheran Special Education Ministries is introducing its brand new logo.

For some time, the ministry has been identified simply with the name printed in stylized type. This new logo brings additional visual representation to the ministry's vision statement: Reach, Serve, Enable. It depicts the partnership of teacher and child in Christian education with an adult's and a child's hand supporting



a book. It is that partnership between pastor, educator, parent and student that is the heart of Lutheran Special Education Ministries.

The ministry thanks Alena Krone for designing the new logo, which was completed as a class project. Now a communications major at Michigan State University, Alena, is the daughter of Lutheran Special Education Ministries Programs and Services Vice President Jim Krone and his wife, Suzette.



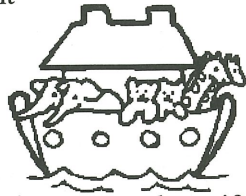
# Student + teacher = classroom success

**Editor's Note:** Lutheran Special Education Ministries teachers see progress in their classrooms every day. Sometimes it comes in tiny steps, sometimes it happens in leaps and bounds. This school year has reached the halfway point, and students are growing mentally and spiritually through the efforts of our special education teachers. Here are some examples.

## The color of hope by Joelle Majerowicz, teacher

As teachers, we often ask questions of our students, expecting a particular response. We assume that there is a right or obvious answer. How wonderful it is when a student responds with the unexpected. It opens our eyes and reminds us of the potential every student has to surprise, delight and even allow us to look at something in a different light. Some days even teachers learn something new.

While working on a booklet entitled, "All About Me," my first grade student gave me a surprising and unique response. I was helping her complete a page about her favorite color and she asked me to help her with the spelling



of a word. She began her word with an "r." I anticipated what she was asking, and told her how to spell the word "red." To my surprise, she asked me to spell "rainbow."

She said she loved all the colors of the rainbow and couldn't choose just one color. Then she proceeded to use the colored pencils to draw a beautiful rainbow in her booklet. She even knew the correct order of the spectrum (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet). She didn't even need help with it.

While she was coloring her page we talked about the story of Noah. We spoke about God's promise to us and that the rainbow is a reminder of that

hope. She had witnessed to me that morning.

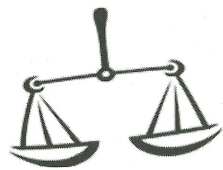
Moments such as these take us off guard. We expect our students to achieve the minimum of what we ask and we often assume outcomes. Yet this six-year-old's response was thoughtful, creative, and full of faith. She taught me. Rainbows have always reminded me of God's promise of hope, but now they are a reminder of promise and hope within each student.



## Barbie's weight revealed by Lori Newton, teacher

How can a Barbie doll be used to teach math? Heather knows. She struggles to learn math concepts and, for her, learning the concepts today doesn't mean that she will remember them tomorrow. For Heather, math concepts must be visual if she is to learn and remember them. That's where the Barbie doll comes in.

In our recent math chapter about weight and measurement, our goal was to explore and have an understanding of pounds, ounces, inches, feet, kilograms, milligrams, meters,



centimeters ... They are so easily confused. Trying to make sense of them and what they are

used to measure could have been overwhelming for Heather. Using items from her world made it manageable; gave her a reason to learn the terms; and it made the learning useful for her.

Heather's task over the course of the chapter was to determine the most appropriate unit of measurement for Barbie in weight and length, and to accurately weigh and measure her. We also weighed and measured candy bars, pencils, fingernail polish, canned goods, books and many other items.

We made charts showing weights and measurements of all of the items in order of greatest to least. It was fun, and it was real learning for Heather!

As it turns out, even Heather was astounded at Barbie's low weight. (Perhaps it's not just Barbie's head that's hollow.)

## The look of success

Lutheran Special Education Ministries teacher Noel Gregory poses with some of her students. Gregory, who has been with the ministry for 38 years, has brought the joy of learning and the joy of Jesus to many of God's special children over the years.





# Ministry receives LWML grant

A \$75,000 grant will enable Lutheran Special Education Ministries to tell the Good News about Jesus to children.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries received the grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) and will use the funds to create and provide resources used in ministering to children who have special learning needs. The grant, which will be distributed over a two-year period, was approved by the LWML membership at their national biennial convention in Oklahoma City last June. It is one of 14 projects that will be funded through the organization's mite box contributions.

Each year, Lutheran Special Education Ministries serves more than 3,500 children across the United States through six regional offices. As the need for Christian special education services continues to grow, an increasing number of requests for services come from across the United States each year. The LWML grant will play an important part in reaching more students.



Kathleen Schroeder of Lutheran Special Education Ministries speaks with Patricia Potratz of Michigan City, Ind., at the LWML convention in Oklahoma City. Potratz, who has used Lutheran Special Education Ministries services in the past, was inquiring about the upcoming catechism for students with special learning needs.

Many of the children touched by the ministry's programs receive special education assistance in Christ-centered classrooms. Lutheran and other Christian schools, by forming a partnership with Lutheran Special Education Ministries, are able to offer special education classes to children they serve. In these classrooms caring, Christian teachers work with the

students to enable them to learn "regular" subjects as well as the love of Jesus.

In addition to classroom programs Lutheran Special Education Ministries also offers consulting assistance to congregations as they minister to children who have special learning needs. Pastors, Christian education directors and volunteers in need of materials and teaching suggestions are aided on an individual basis. Every effort is made to find the right teaching information and materials to suit each situation.

The LWML grant will provide specialized resources for instruction. Lutheran Special Education Ministries will create materials to help parents, pastors and church and school volunteers. Currently the ministry is in the process of producing a version of Luther's Small Catechism that can be easily understood by children who have special learning needs. This and other materials will enable these children to participate in confirmation, Sunday school and Bible classes.

## Helping our students one label at a time

Over the years, Lutheran Special Education Ministries has traded thousands of labels from Campbell's soup and related products for classroom supplies and teaching aids through the Labels for Education program.

Individuals, organizations, churches and schools can take part in this project by collecting labels and proofs of purchase and sending

them to the Lutheran Special Education Ministries national office.

For a complete list of eligible products and what to save from each package please contact our national office or visit the Campbell's web site at [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com).

Labels should be sent to:  
Lutheran Special Education

Ministries National Office, 6861 East Nevada, Detroit, MI 48234.





**Lutheran Special Education Ministries can help...**

## **Ministering to church members with special needs**

Pastors, Christian education directors and Sunday school teachers have the important task of ministering to the children of their congregations. When



one of those children has a special learning need, a labor of love can become a daunting task. But one telephone call to a Lutheran Special

Education Ministries resource consultant can help.

The consulting service is available,

at no cost, to all people interested in sharing the precious message of Jesus with children who have special learning needs.

Each year, Lutheran Special Education Ministries fields hundreds of telephone calls from pastors, volunteer teachers, parents, directors of Christian education and others who are involved with the educational programs in their congregations.

During a telephone conversation a resource specialist can share ideas on how to include children who have special needs in confirmation classes, Sunday school, vacation Bible school and other programs offered by the congregation. Our special education

professionals can provide information about current curriculum and



supplemental materials that are available from various publishers.

If you have a child in your congregation who has a special learning need and you would like information about how to provide the best Christian education experience, please contact the Lutheran Special Education Ministries National Office by phone at 313-368-1220 or through the web site at [www.luthsped.org](http://www.luthsped.org).

## **Ministry appointments announced**

Lutheran Special Education Ministries President and Chief Executive Officer Roger DeMeyere announced the following administrative appointments.

Eugene Kuebler has accepted a call to serve as vice president,



development. He will provide leadership for the development and public relations departments.

Kuebler most recently completed a 15-year career with The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Foundation. While there, he held a number of positions, including: district planned giving counselor for Michigan; Great Lakes regional vice president; and, most recently, vice president of individual ministry.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Concordia University, Seward, Neb.

Kathleen Schroeder has been appointed director of the Lutheran Special Education Ministries Great Lakes Region, succeeding Kathy Krause who retired at the end of the

2002-03 school year. Schroeder previously served the ministry as



resource center director.

She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary special education from Gordon College, Wenham, Mass. She

also received a master's degree in curriculum development and instructional technology from the State University of New York at Albany.

## **Give us a call, write us a note, send us an e-mail**

If you enjoy the information we are sharing with you we would like to hear from you. Feel free to give us a call or send us a note or e-mail. We would be happy to send you more information about Lutheran Special Education Ministries beyond what is available in *The Advocate* or on our Web site at [www.luthsped.org](http://www.luthsped.org). Please let us know. We always look forward to hearing from our friends.

In order to remain good stewards of the resources we are given at Lutheran Special Education Ministries the staff periodically reviews mailing lists. At this time, we realize that changes need to be made. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please contact B.J. Ruzzin. You may reach her by telephone at 313-368-1220, Ext. 107; by e-mail at [bruzzin@luthsped.org](mailto:bruzzin@luthsped.org); or by writing to her at 6861 East Nevada, Detroit, Mich., 48234.

Thanks for helping us in our ongoing stewardship efforts.

### *The Advocate*

is published two times a year by  
*Lutheran Special  
Education Ministries*

6861 East Nevada  
Detroit, Michigan 48234-2983  
(313) 368-1220

E-mail: [LSEM@luthsped.org](mailto:LSEM@luthsped.org)  
[www.luthsped.org](http://www.luthsped.org)

Please send all communications regarding  
this publication to the above address.