

"Enabling children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education since 1873."

The Advocate

Unending Love & Amazing Grace

It's a fact. Over the past 135 years God's unending love and amazing grace has provided more than enough financial resources to sustain the work of His ministry at LSEM.

But what's also amazing is the way He continues to provide LSEM with wonderful people to carry out His work. People like Noel Gregory, an LSEM teacher that has witnessed God's unending love and amazing grace while serving LSEM for over 40 years!

In the beginning years when LSEM was a residential school in Detroit, Noel worked with students who were deaf. But in the mid-seventies all that changed when the focus of the ministry had to change. At that time LSEM began providing Christian education to hearing children with special learning needs, and Noel was ready to meet the challenge.

As Noel reminisces about her years at LSEM she is amazed how God has orchestrated and prepared her for all the changes. In 1979 LSEM began establishing satellite programs at Christian partnership schools in metropolitan Detroit, and in 1995 the campus school closed where Noel worked.

"The Lord will put me where he wants me. I'm a little afraid of leaving but I know God has pre-



LSEM Teacher, Noel Gregory with students from East Bethlehem Lutheran School

pared me and I will trust in Him," Noel stated.

Believing that God would provide, LSEM began a special education program at East Bethlehem Lutheran School in Detroit. For the next 10 years Noel made a difference in the lives of many children with special learning needs.

Then in 2006 the future seemed uncertain again when East Bethlehem had to close its doors. But Noel's faith that God would provide stood firm. Shortly after the school closed a new program was established at Detroit Urban Lutheran School where she began working with high school students.

"I never worked with high school students but I knew that God would help me through it, and He did", said Noel.

Not realizing it at the time Noel received special training during her tenure at East Bethlehem which qualified and prepared her to teach special education in the high school. The future became crystal clear and once again God provided.

Unending love and amazing grace? No question! Noel is certainly proof of that. We thank God for Noel's faithful service to LSEM and for the many children whose lives she has touched.

Direction For Growth

All Eyes On Jesus

Our direction is set for growth with all eyes on Jesus. We have identified our goals, made our plans and it's time to grow.

That was the start of the 2007-08 school year and so far things are right on track. Currently we have 62 partnership school programs across the United States that are serving approximately 1284 children with special learning needs.

As we continue to focus on growth we also know it is important that we start with a solid foundation. For the past few months I have been focusing on prayer and waiting for God's timing to build the foundation. Thankfully God's timing is perfect!

Part of the process of building the solid foundation was the hiring of two new programs and services directors. They will provide leadership to all assigned programs and services staff as well as work to identify, establish and coordinate programs and services across the country. Let me introduce you.

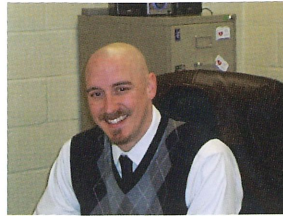
Welcome To The Team



Jeff Howell officially began his duties as programs and services director in mid-November, and works partly from an office at Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois where he and his family reside.

In 1988 Jeff achieved a bachelor's degree in science from Concordia University, Seward with a major in special education. He comes to LSEM with 20 years experience as an educator, many of those years in the Chicago area Lutheran schools as a principal. *"Serving God's Kingdom as part of this organization is a blessing. As a principal I always felt that the staff of LSEM truly cared for the welfare of the students served. I am excited about the challenges and possibilities that are ahead,"* Jeff said.

Born and raised in Maywood, Illinois to Janet and Wesley Howell, Jr., Jeff is the youngest of six children. He and Andrea, his wife of 25 years have three children, Jeffrey Jr., Chavon, Jasmine and one grandchild Jeffrey.



Tim Winterstein comes to us from Toledo, Ohio and began his duties as programs and services director at the onset of the new year. Tim will work from the national office in Detroit, Michigan, when he's not on the road visiting schools.

A graduate of Valparaiso University in Indiana with a bachelor's degree in education, Tim went on to receive his master's in administration leadership from Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan. *"I am very excited to be a part of the LSEM team and I look forward to all that God has in store for me,"* said Tim.

Married 10 years to his wife Teresa who teaches 5th grade in Bedford, Michigan. They have two children, Meleya age 4, and Henry age 2.

Resource Center

Moving forward, **Sue Lewis**, our former program director has made a lateral move as our new director of the resource center. The resource center is an integral part of our programs and services department and is a vital component to our growth.



As resource director, Sue is responding to inquiries from parents and Christian educators regarding their special education needs.

In addition, **Dr. James Pagels**, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist is on staff and is available for consultations.

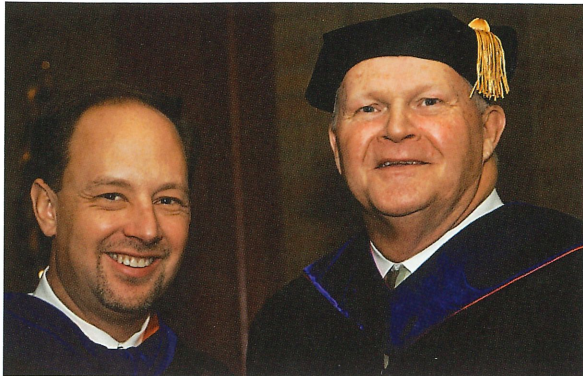
As a national resource for Christian special education we are eager to serve you or your ministry. You may contact Sue Lewis at 888-488-LSEM ext. 112 for more information.

I am very excited about our team and confident that our direction is set for growth. As we press on toward that goal we will continue to keep our eyes on Jesus.

Jim Krohn
Vice President, Programs & Services

*"Whoever welcomes a child like this in my name welcomes me."
Matthew 18:5*

For Such A Time As This



Dr. Kurt Senske, (left) CEO of Lutheran Social Services of the South pictured here with Dr. Roger DeMeyere, was the speaker at the Fall Commencement Ceremony.

On December 15, 2007 at its Fall Commencement Ceremony, Concordia University Chicago honored Dr. Roger DeMeyere, President and Chief Executive Officer of LSEM with the Spiritus Christi Medallion. This honor is presented to an individual who has performed his/her responsibilities with unusual effectiveness and influence and with the highest quality of service to the church.

Roger has thirty-five years of professional experience in education and has served as President and CEO of LSEM since 1987. During his twenty year tenure he has witnessed the transformation of the ministry from a residential school in Detroit to a national organization that serves as a special education resource for Christian schools and congregations throughout the United States. "Of course this recognition is really about LSEM and its distinguished service to the church. I accepted the award with that thought in mind and with a grateful heart for the opportunity to serve for such a time as this," DeMeyere said.

What a blessing Roger has been to LSEM the past 20 years. There's no doubt he is here for such a time as this. **To God alone be the glory!**

Our Vision

As a Christ-centered organization we will:

Reach...across the United States (and beyond)

Serve...schools and congregations

Enable...children with special learning needs to know Jesus and to lead fulfilling lives

Difficult To Smooth Sailing

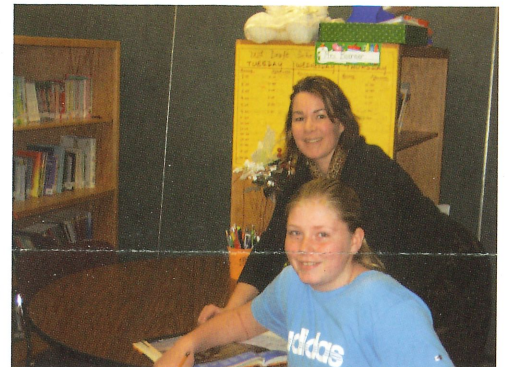
A tall, blonde sixth-grader, Tiffany stands out in many positive ways, but much more now compared to two years ago. At the end of fourth grade things were not going well, especially academically. When asked to recall, Tiffany shares that school was difficult. She had trouble concentrating, recalling & transferring information the teachers had just covered. "I got low grades and I was always missing assignments. I did not get math," Tiffany proclaimed. Soon things began to change after a referral to the **Unique Learners (UL)** Program.

One of the first recommendations was for Tiffany's mom and pediatrician to address an apparent attention issue. When the right medication was discovered, a light seemed to turn on for Tiffany in terms of focus. Then she dug down and got started with LSEM Teacher Chris Boerner's "PR", or Planned Response intervention. Tiffany needed some alternative ways to learn a subject like math. Chris devised an individualized plan with input from Tiffany's teachers and her mom. A schedule of regular sessions was set up. Even with just two forty-minute sessions weekly, Tiffany was making remarkable progress!

The staff at Christ Community Lutheran School could not help but nominate Tiffany for Student of the Month honors. On the volleyball court, Tiffany also seemed more successful and focused than ever before. A constant

smile is seen on Tiffany's face at school and many of her teachers notice how much more confident she is. What does Tiffany say about UL? "UL has especially been helpful to me in explaining things so that I understand and get my work done," says Tiffany.

Now for the best part. Tiffany rarely misses an assignment these days and has a superb work ethic. The entire school year she was on the honor roll. Yes, even in math!



Student, Tiffany Kirsch, with LSEM Teacher, Chris Boerner

Chris Boerner, LSEM Teacher
Christ Community Lutheran School, Watertown, MN

Ways You Can Help

Opportunities To Give

Gifts from our friends are vital in helping LSEM meet the needs of our programs and services in our partnership schools and congregations. It is amazing how our Lord continues to provide the needed resources through individuals and organizations. Following are opportunities to give for your consideration:

Prayer

We believe that it is essential to ask God to meet our needs. Your prayers lifted up to our Lord on our behalf are of highest importance and are greatly appreciated!

Annual Fund

A gift to our annual fund will provide the necessary financial resources for the many school programs and services happening on a day-to-day basis. You may also give a gift in memory of someone, or in honor of an individual in celebration of a special occasion or achievement. For your convenience check out our website to donate on line by credit card or you may call the national office.

Matching Gifts

Many employers offer a program that will match your financial donation. Thrivent Financial For Lutherans offers a gift-matching program called “**GivingPlus**” for Thrivent members. For more information go to the Thrivent website at www.thrivent.com. If you need Thrivent forms please contact the Development Dept. at ext. 107.

Campbell's Labels For Education

This program has provided teaching materials and supplies for our programs for many years. By collecting labels from Campbell's products and sending them to us, we can use the labels to “purchase” much needed classroom materials.

Planned Gifts

Making plans now for continuing your support to LSEM and other ministries is possible through a planned estate gift or bequest. Check out our website for more information at www.luthsped.org.

For more information on *ways you can help* please contact BJ Ruzzin in our Development Dept. at ext.107.

A New Opportunity To Give



Project12Baskets is an organization that creates a marketplace where people can help by giving generously without giving money. LSEM's newly formed partnership with Project12Baskets is allowing for the collection of donated items of value to be turned into dollars through electronic auction sites and resale specialists. Once an item is sold LSEM will receive the donation.

If you would like to register an item to donate you may go to www.project12baskets.com and click on the “**Donate an Item**” icon. If you have questions please contact Project12Baskets at 877-448-7122. They will be happy to assist you.

LSEM 3rd Annual Golf Outing

Mark your calendars for:
Monday, June 16, 2008

Event to be held at:
Cracklewood Golf Club
18215 24 Mile Road
Macomb, MI 48042



We thank everyone for their support of our past events. If you would like to be a sponsor for this event or would like more information contact our Development Dept. at 888-488-LSEM ext. 107.

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