



LSEM
Lutheran Special Education Ministries

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

The Advocate

Serving More Children...In More Ways



How may we serve you? That is one of the questions Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) continues to ask our friends and ministry partners. In

doing so we believe that more and more doors are opening, and the importance of Christian special education is becoming even more apparent in our Christian schools and congregations.

Asking the right questions has helped LSEM to meet the changing needs of schools. Here is how we are responding.

Professional Support

LSEM is reaching out to support Christian teachers who are working with children with special needs. For years we have been providing quality Christian special education teachers to Christian schools so children with special needs have the opportunity to receive a Christ centered education.

But as schools began to hire their own special education teachers, we were at a crossroad and asked the question; *"How can we help you support children with special learning needs?"*

We are excited about developing a new entry-level service; *a national Christian special education professional resource/network*. Our goal is to create a Christian resource for special education that people will feel comfortable accessing and automatically turn to for quality support.

At this entry level, a school or individual teacher will be able to join a network of special education professionals and benefit from our special education information updates and as-needed support.

Early Childhood Screening

To reach more children at an earlier age LSEM will also be offering early childhood screening. This service will be available for Christian elementary schools and early childhood centers in areas of the country where LSEM partnership schools are in place.

LSEM is preparing to meet the needs of schools expressing the desire for this service. This service can be used to assess children from preschool through third grade. Screenings enable professionals to monitor children's

progress, to advise parents on how to promote development, and to initiate individualized instruction or any special services that might be needed to facilitate children's learning.

Early childhood screening will give the teachers and the parents valuable information. This will help us to better understand how a child will do in particular subjects within the classroom. The screening will also give us a good idea of how a child compares to children of their same age.

As needs change LSEM will continue to ask the questions that will help us try and meet those needs. Our prayer is that LSEM will keep on *servng more children...in more ways!*

Jim Krone
Vice President, Programs & Services



In Mission

A Special Thanks



On behalf of the staff of LSEM and the children we serve, we want to extend *a special thanks* to all the educational and church leaders who have shared our vision to open the doors of schools and congregations for children who have special learning needs. What a blessing it is to partner with them in our mission to serve these special children.

It is with great joy and thanksgiving that we share the following testaments from school principals. We are encouraged by their words and pray that you are too. They are affirmation of the Lord's provision, and blessings upon our work.

*Dr. Roger DeMeyere
President & CEO*

Grace Lutheran School, Jacksonville, FL

Mr. Rod Jackson, Principal

LSEM and the consultant they provide have been a tremendous blessing to our school. Our goal at Grace is to serve as many different children as possible so we can reach all young people with the glorious message of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The resources LSEM provides have allowed us to serve students we would otherwise be unable to serve, and to enrich the educational experience of all of the students at Grace. All of our teachers enjoy working with our LSEM consultant, Michele Stoumbelis. She is intelligent, energetic, and passionate about serving the needs of students with special needs. We feel very blessed to have the LSEM team as a part of the ministry here at Grace.

Chicago Hope Academy, Chicago, IL

Mr. Mike Laneve, Principal

Chicago Hope Academy is located on the West Side of Chicago in a low-income area and we are often confronted every day with challenges working in the kingdom and serving God's children. Our school is a private Christian school and we accept students from all parts of the city and surrounding suburbs, with limited time, staff and funds. With the help of LSEM we have been able to identify students at risk and put together individual student improvement plans to better serve God's children.

St. John Lutheran School, Ft. Wayne, IN

Mr. Martin Gigler, Principal

St. John Lutheran School has had an association with LSEM for some years now. My experience with LSEM began last year as my first full year as principal at St. John. I have found the services offered to be of the greatest benefit to our students with special learning needs. Last year our two LSEM teachers, Deb Koehlinger and Dianne Frank worked with many students who had a myriad of learning needs from dyslexia, to general mathematics, reading, and more. Both teachers were enthusiastic, knowledgeable, organized and always working for what was best for the students and the school at large. All this in the context of Christian Education.

Trinity Lutheran School, Utica, MI

Dr. Bruce Kosmatka, Principal Emeritus

Trinity Lutheran School has been richly blessed for more than twenty-five consecutive years in its relationship with LSEM. During these years the students, parents, and faculty of our school have benefited from the faithful services of LSEM resource room teachers.

Currently, Mrs. Gail Vahlbusch serves Trinity as our LSEM resource room teacher and consultant. Gail has helped countless children in our school. Gail has directly taught Trinity students in reading, mathematics, or written language content areas who were certified as learning disabled.

An exciting new LSEM offering for 1st and 2nd grade Trinity students has been an effort geared at early identification of children who are struggling in reading and related language arts content skills. Through small group instruction children have had skills strengthened without needing to be tested or possibly certified by state special education standards.

Gail Vahlbusch has been a marvelous resource consultant for our faculty assisting teachers with student need identification, providing plans for student classroom modifications, as well as assisting teachers with consultations.

Finally, in so many ways Gail has been active in the ministry of our school beyond her classroom responsibilities. She has served as an in-service leader, been an active participant in school open houses, attended music and athletic events demonstrating her total commitment to involvement with all of our students. She has truly been an outstanding representative for LSEM, Christian education, and her Lord.



continued on next page...

And Vision

St. Michael's Lutheran School, Richville, MI

Mr. Kevin Hendrikson, Principal

During the month of March, our school had chosen a mission emphasis. This was due in part to the wonderful work that Lori Newton,



Mrs. Lori Newton, LSEM Teacher, teaches 3rd graders, Jason and Garrison a technique to improve reading comprehension. They are making a picture in their heads of what they have just read.

our LSEM teacher, does with our school and families. She is such a blessing to us and we wanted to help support the mission of LSEM.

Too often we do not hear the wonderful and positive experiences our staff brings to an organization. Lori goes above and beyond in helping families as they struggle with the needs of their children.

As an administrator, I know there are times I

take for granted those who serve with me. I hope you truly appreciate what a wonderful blessing Lori is to St. Michael's, LSEM and the greater ministry of His kingdom. Thank you for all you do!

St. John's Lutheran School, Corcoran, MN

Mr. Gary Volberding, Principal

LSEM closes the gap for students who need added assistance while at the same time is a benefit for all students and teachers. They all benefit because the regular classroom teacher is able to spend more quality time with all the students.

Our LSEM teacher is also a valuable resource for teachers and parents in many areas of education. LSEM enables us to expand our ministry to more students and families and to increase the quality of education for all!

St. Paul Lutheran School, Ft. Worth, TX

Mr. Larry Hoffschneider, Principal

St. Paul Lutheran School has been a client of LSEM for several years. Each year we become increasingly aware of how important this piece of our total ministry has become. Mrs. Sharon Messmann serves the students of our school by providing resources for struggling students and challenges our gifted students.

Mrs. Messmann also provides in-service resources for our faculty and staff. Through her connection with LSEM we have access to many video resources which help our teachers grow in their understanding of learning differences, and gives them tips in coping with the challenges of the classroom setting.

We are blessed by our relationship with LSEM!

In Memory

Former board member
Walter A. Kaufmann

was called home to be
with Jesus on **June 27, 2008.**

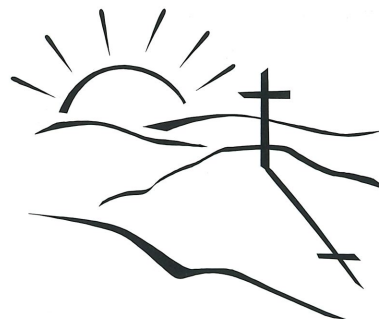
We give praise, honor and glory to
God for his faithful service to

**Lutheran Special
Education Ministries**

and for his commitment to children
with special learning needs. We look
forward with joyful anticipation when
we will someday meet again!



*Walter Kaufmann pictured here
with his wife Margaret in 2006*



Our Vision

As a Christ-centered organization we will:

Reach...*across the United States*

Serve...*schools and congregations*

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

Ways You Can Help

A Picture Perfect Day!

We were blessed with yet another beautiful summer day for our 3rd annual golf outing at Cracklewood Golf Course in Macomb, Michigan. Many friends came out to support the event that raised over **\$16,000** to benefit children with special learning needs.

Once again special guest, **Karen Newman**, the official voice of the **Detroit Red Wings**, posed with our golfers for team pictures and sang the National Anthem to begin the day.

We are very thankful to our staff, the golf committee, and the many friends who helped to make our 3rd annual golf outing a success. It was wonderful to see and meet new friends and to personally thank them for partnering with us in our mission.

At LSEM we believe that it is important to create opportunities for our friends to give of their time, talents and gifts. The golf outing is just one way that we accomplish that.

Thank you to the following **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Michigan Chapters** for their support through the *"Care Abounds in Communities"* Program.

- ⇒ EAST MACOMB
- ⇒ NORTH MACOMB
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- ⇒ WEST OAKLAND
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- ⇒ WESTERN WAYNE



If you would like more information about how you can help with our golf event, or other ways you can help, please contact **BJ Ruzzin** at 313-368-1220 ext. 108.

Thank you for your support!



Golf Committee Members, Donna Harvey (left) and BJ Ruzzin, worked hard at getting all the great gifts for the golfers!



Dr. Roger DeMeyere, President & CEO of LSEM (left) accepting a check from Jim Riske of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their support of our golf outing.

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