



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

# The Advocate Newsletter

## A VALUABLE LESSON

Trinity First Lutheran School in Minnesota is blessed by the **Campbell's Labels for Education** Program at LSEM. The families of Trinity First have been collecting labels for the program for the past nine years. Many of our school and church families, as well as other schools and churches in the area bring the labels to Trinity First to be sent to the LSEM National Office in Detroit. Once the national office receives the labels a group of

volunteers and staff help to cut and sort them. The labels not only come from Trinity First but from other generous individuals across the country. **You may be one of them!**

LSEM has been collecting labels for the Campbell's Labels for Education Program for more than 25 years. The program has provided teaching materials and much needed supplies. The catalog that we have to choose from is enormous. It's full of items from playground balls to classroom projectors. Each year we get to choose items based on the amount of points collected and the best part is that the products are free! I have always told my students that nothing in life is free except the free gift of eternal life in Jesus. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to reinforce this **"valuable lesson"** with my students through the Campbell's Labels for Education Program.

I started receiving boxes from Camp-



**Students of Trinity First Lutheran School**

bell's back in November of 2009. The first box contained a Math Shark, which is an electronic hand held game that helps students practice math facts such as addition and multiplication. My students devoured this teaching tool and would often be found in the math area of my classroom playing with it.

A week or so later I received in the mail another box. The return address was from the LSEM National Office in Detroit. I had no idea why I was getting this box. I did not order anything and was not expecting anything so I opened it and inside was a **huge** talking clock used for teaching time. The students were so excited and intrigued that they wanted to play with it right away.

Then a week later I received yet another package, this time with an unknown return address. When I opened the box it was like Christmas! The box was filled with items such as a Franklin Ace Speller,

another Math Shark and various other teaching supplies. I told the students to leave everything in the box until I figured out where it came from. I decided to contact the LSEM National Office and much to my surprise and delight I was informed that yes, the box was for my LSEM students! I was also informed that all the items were purchased with points from the Campbell's Labels for Education Program. The students were thrilled as they helped me

unpack these **free** gifts.

At Trinity First many of the students who face the challenges of special learning needs are also faced with the challenges of poverty, addictions, homelessness and abuse in their families. These gifts so freely given helped me to reinforce with my students the greatest gift of salvation through Jesus, who is our hope no matter what challenges we may face in life.

Thank you for partnering with LSEM. Whether through the Campbell's Labels for Education Program or through your generous financial gifts, it is because of our friends that support the work that we do that I am blessed to be an LSEM teacher. I am humbly grateful for the opportunity to share with these special children each and every day the hope of the world that is absolutely **free** in Jesus!

*Humbly Serving Our King,  
Michelle Melde, LSEM Teacher  
Trinity First Lutheran School, MN*

# From the President

## A CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY

God created us to be in community with one another to do His will. We are moving into a new era for LSEM. Or is it? Just like in the past, we are eager to serve children that may not be able to learn about Jesus because of a special need. These children may no longer be orphans like the ones we served in 1873, or children who were deaf like the thousands served from 1874 to 1975, but we are still serving them, only differently.

Since 1975 we have been asking the question, “*What do we need to do to insure that children with special learning needs get a Christian education?*” Each year we answer it with refined and new programming.

The key to the success of LSEM is in our community together under Christ. There is great comfort at LSEM in knowing that Jesus is at the center and in partnership with us as we work together. As I look to the future I am filled with excitement and enthusiasm in serving children in every facet of this ministry. I am also reminded in Proverbs 15:22 that, “*Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*”

It is the LSEM community’s counsel that I will rely on as I guide this strong Christ-centered ministry forward. I have the experience of Roger DeMeyere, President/CEO Emeritus, the expertise of the directors, the organization and attention to details of the national office support staff, the wisdom of the board of trustees, the expertise and the love of Jesus shared with the children by our teachers, consultants, coordinators, and all of you who continue to support LSEM with your prayers and your gifts.

In the next couple of months I will be asking the LSEM community for counsel in the form of a 10 question web survey. Watch for details on our website at [www.luthsped.org](http://www.luthsped.org). Your input is very much appreciated and valued. I thank God for you and for your partnership in our Christ-centered community.

*To God Alone Be The Glory! James R. Krone, President/CEO*



## THANKS...NO SMALL WORD

I recently came across a card from a very special friend who passed away. She was only twenty-one years old but she made an everlasting impact on those whose lives she touched.

The card to our family was a note of thanks and appreciation for what she expressed was all that my family meant to her. Inside the card she wrote, “*I am so beyond blessed to have you guys in my life. God has truly sent you to me for a reason. I want you to know how much I appreciate every card, prayer, and kind gesture. Everything you do comes from your heart.*”

As I read the card tears began to flow as I remembered this special friend and wondered if I had fully expressed my thanks to her for all that she meant to me. I was reminded that day how important it is to say thanks and that “**thanks is no small word.**” And even more, I was reminded to not miss the opportunities to say thanks to those whom God has placed in my life who have blessed me beyond belief.

So, on behalf of LSEM I would like to take this opportunity to say a special word of “**thanks.**” Thanks to you for your partnership, your prayers, your kind words of encouragement and your financial support through the years. You are truly a blessing beyond belief to the children that we serve!

Even though thanks may seem like such a little thing to say, it is no small word when you’ve been blessed by people in such a big way. **So again I say, thanks!**



*“I thank my God upon every  
remembrance of you.”  
Philippians 1:3*

*Thankful & Blessed,  
Grace Lorano*

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

We thought our friends might be asking the question “*how are we doing*,” so we wanted to share with you some of the information we use to measure the “*how*” of what we are doing, as well as share with you where we are headed in our programs and services.

For over a century LSEM has existed to serve children with special learning needs. Even though our focus may change as needs change, our mission remains the same ... “*enable children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education.*” And even though we use numbers to measure how we are doing, these numbers represent the faces of children who are receiving a quality education in an environment where Jesus is at the very core of their learning.

Each year we work on our national goals to help us focus our efforts on increasing the number of children and partnership schools we serve. Currently we are serving 1,541 students in 47 partnership schools across the country. With God’s help, we hope to increase the number of students served this school year to 2,000 and the number of partnership schools to 60.

Our new service, CASE, which is Christian Affiliation of Special Educators sponsored by LSEM, is beginning to grow. We have 11 new CASE Partnership Schools and we would like to increase that number to 25. If you would like more information about CASE you may go to our website at [www.luthsped.org](http://www.luthsped.org) or call us toll free at 888-488-LSEM ext. 101.

Currently, we have programs in Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Texas. But we are not limiting our efforts to these areas. We have identified areas where we do not have programs that we believe have a need that we will focus our attentions on.

Our team is working hard to promote the services that LSEM can provide for schools and congregations but we need your help. If you know of a school or a church that could benefit from our services, please contact our programs and services department at our toll free number listed above or pass this information along.



**Tim Winterstein**  
Programs & Services Director

For questions regarding services in the AZ, CA, IL, IN & MN areas contact Jeff Howell at ext. 117, or you may email him at [jhowell@luthsped.org](mailto:jhowell@luthsped.org). For services in the FL, MI & TX areas contact Tim Winterstein at ext. 114, or you may also contact him by email at [twinterstein@luthsped.org](mailto:twinterstein@luthsped.org).

We believe that together we will make a difference in the life of a child who struggles with special learning needs wherever God leads us. Thank you for your support and partnership in this very important ministry.



**Jeff Howell**  
Programs & Services Director

*In His Service,  
Jeff Howell & Tim Winterstein  
LSEM Programs and Services Directors*



## Family Resources

Are you looking for ways to help your child who is struggling with learning become successful? LSEM is available to listen to your concerns and provide assistance in identifying strategies and potential resources that may help your child succeed in their Christian educational setting.

For family resources visit our website at [www.luthsped.org](http://www.luthsped.org) and click on “**Families**” in the menu bar on the homepage. There you will find a variety of updated resource topics and information.

If you have specific questions or concerns you may contact the LSEM Resource Center.

### LSEM Resource Center Contact Information

**RC Director:** Susan Lewis

**Toll-Free:** 1-888-488-LSEM (5736)

**Extension:** 112

**Email:** [slewis@luthsped.org](mailto:slewis@luthsped.org)

*“A father is tender and kind to his children. In the same way, the Lord is tender and kind to those who have respect for him.”  
Psalm 103:13*



## Prayer Requests

Are you in need of prayer? Do you have any requests? Our national office staff meets daily Mon-Fri at 9:00am to pray. You may email your prayer requests to [lsem@luthsped.org](mailto:lsem@luthsped.org) or call our national office toll free at 888-488-LSEM(5736) and we will include your request with our daily prayers.

We would also like to ask that you pray for LSEM too. Please pray for:

- ☞ *God's Wisdom*
- ☞ *Our Students*
- ☞ *Our Teachers*
- ☞ *Our Staff*
- ☞ *God's Provisions*

We thank God for you and for your prayers. As a ministry of faith we believe that God hears our prayers and will answer them according to His purposes. We hope to hear from you too!

### The Advocate

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## HANDMADE TREASURES

There are many ways to say “thank you” and one way we at LSEM say it is in the form of handmade greeting cards. For more than 15 years our LSEM students have been creating beautiful Easter and Christmas greeting cards for our ministry partners. Maybe you’ve received one of these beautiful cards. If so, we pray that it has blessed your heart as much as it blesses ours. If you haven’t, our hope is that all of our friends that support the work we do will be blessed by one of these handmade treasures in the near future.

As our programs and services continue to change to meet the needs of our Christian school partners, the making of the cards becomes more challenging. We would like to say a special thank you to our **LSEM Teachers** who take the extra time that is needed to have their **students** make these beautiful treasures and to the students for their creativity and heart! You are a blessing and we appreciate all of your extra efforts!

We hope to continue with this tradition of handmade cards for many more years to come. We thank God for the blessings they bring not only to us but to you, our friends and partners in ministry!



Handmade by an  
LSEM Student

## PASSING ON THE BLESSING

Roger DeMeyere officially retires as LSEM’s President/CEO March 1, 2010 after 23 years of faithful service. He continues to assist in the transition of leadership to James R. Krone, LSEM’s new President/CEO, which was effective in October of 2009.

A retirement party is planned for **February 28, 2010** in celebration of Roger’s years of service to LSEM. For more information you may call the national office or visit our website at [www.luthsped.org](http://www.luthsped.org).

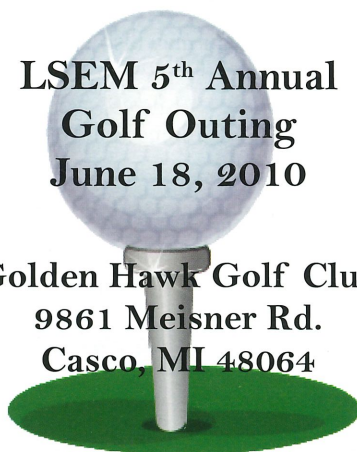
Please join us in thanking God for Roger and for Jim and for the gift of *passing on the blessing!*



Roger DeMeyere left, passing on the blessing to James R. Krone.

## LSEM 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing June 18, 2010

Golden Hawk Golf Club  
 9861 Meisner Rd.  
 Casco, MI 48064



LSEM is excited to announce our 5th annual golf outing. Special guest **Karen Newman**, the official voice of the **Detroit Red Wings** will join us once again this year.

For details about our golf event or to register you may call us at **888-488-LSEM ext. 104**. You may also visit our website at [www.luthsped.org](http://www.luthsped.org) to register on-line. If you are not a golfer, sponsorship opportunities are available or just come on out and join us for dinner! Proceeds from the event will benefit children with special learning needs. We hope to see you there. **Thank You!**

LSEM Golf Event Committee