

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

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Our Vision

*Reach...
across the United States*

*Serve...
schools & congregations*

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



Gifted and Talented

As an LSEM teacher, I am passionate about helping children with learning differences. It is very exciting to watch a student with dyslexia become a good reader that loves books. It is rewarding to see a child with a math learning disability find confidence and demonstrate accuracy in problem solving. Helping struggling students succeed is not only a job, it is a calling.

There is another population of children with special learning needs that is sometimes overlooked and that is the gifted and talented student. According to the Federal definition, the term "gifted and talented" refers to "students who give evidence of high achievement capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields, and who need services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop those capabilities."

There are several options a school has to provide differentiated learning experiences for such students. The existing curriculum can include complexity and offer choices and depth for the gifted student. The LSEM program at St. Paul Lutheran School in Ft. Worth, Texas offers Excel Writing. This is a program for students who have been selected with like needs and abilities out of the regular classroom and meet twice a week for specialized instruction in writing.

Recently, several of the Excel Writing students competed in *PSIA (Private School Interscholastic Achievement)* in Fort Worth. St. Paul had several students that won 1st and 2nd place ribbons in Ready Writing and will be going on to compete at the state level competition. The students were required to write on a given topic in 30 to 45 minutes. I am so proud of our young writers! We publish several books written by our Excel Writing students. On the following page there are a few of the poems from our 5th and 6th grade writers.

Without the support of our LSEM partners, programs like Excel Writing would not be possible in many of our Christian schools. I want to personally thank our friends who support the work of these young writers, and so many other children whose lives are changed because of your generosity. God bless you for being a blessing to the children we serve!



Pictured here are LSEM Teacher, Sharon Messmann, with students from the Excel Writing Program at St. Paul Lutheran School in Ft. Worth, Texas.

*Serving All God's Children,
Sharon Messmann*

From the President/CEO



Jim Krone
President/CEO

"I trust God will provide what is needed when it's needed."



God is Good...All The Time

It's a new year and a new slate of officers. At a special meeting on January 13, 2011 the LSEM Board of Trustees elected new officers. We welcome **Susan Vogt** as our new Chair, **Peter Rynearson** as our new Vice-Chair, and **Karen Russell** as our board Secretary. All three bring unique skills and expertise to the board that will enhance our services.

The transition of LSEM from a deaf school to an organization that serves children with special learning needs in schools and congregations has been slow. Did you know that in 1975, that's about 35 years ago, we began supporting more than just children with hearing impairments? And in 1991 our name was changed to LSEM because there were an increasing number of children with disabilities other than hearing impaired?

Our outreach to children last year numbered over 2,400 spanning the United States. Our transition is continuous, and in order for LSEM to continue to support this special population of children, we must continue to change to meet the needs. This is no easy task!

Children with special needs are easily over

looked in times of economic down turns. Christian Schools are having difficulty staying open and school boards can't justify the extra expense for special education programs. LSEM is looking for new ways to support, as Jesus said, "a child like this," without putting a burden on Christian schools or congregations, and we need your help.

It's budget time so I am doing some calculating. I figured, if all our friends who receive "**The Advocate**", approximately 11,000, made a \$200 donation this year it would equal \$2,200,000. Likewise, if our friends, asked ten friends, to give a \$100 donation, that would generate a whopping \$11,000,000! With that kind of support, budget time would be a cinch and LSEM could provide quality special education programs to 165 Christian schools at absolutely no cost. Even better, we could help more than 10,600 children who have special learning needs. **Incredible!**

At LSEM we believe that all gifts large and small will make a difference in the life of a child. As God leads, I pray that you will continue to partner with us in our mission. I am trusting that God will provide what is needed when it's needed. God is good...all the time!

Jim Krone, President/CEO

Programs & Services Team



For service questions in AZ, CA, IL, IN & MN email jhowell@luthsped.org or call extension 117.

Jeff Howell
Programs & Services Director



For resources email slewis@luthsped.org or call extension 112.

Susan Lewis
Resource Center Director



For service questions in FL, MI & TX email twinterstein@luthsped.org or call extension 114.

Tim Winterstein
Programs & Services Director

As we approach the end of another school year, we wanted to say thank you to the many friends and partners that have made it possible for LSEM to provide quality special education programs and services to the children and families we serve. We are excited about the many new opportunities that are being developed and we know it would not be possible without the support from friends like you.

If you are a special education professional, a parent, school, church, or if you know of someone that needs special education resources and/or information about the programs and services in your area, contact the LSEM Programs and Services Team toll free at **888-488-LSEM (5736)**. We will be happy to answer your questions and assist you in any way we can.

This school year has presented many challenges and opportunities for growth in all areas of our programs and services. As we seek God's direction and wisdom we are confident that many more doors will open and opportunities will present themselves for reaching, serving and enabling children to be all that God intends them to be.

Thank you again for your support. Please keep the LSEM Programs and Services Team and the children we serve in your prayers!

*Serving God's Special Children,
Programs and Services Team*



Ken Heinitz - Volunteer Extraordinaire



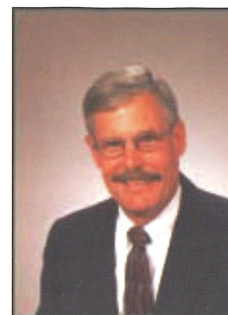
Ken Heinitz pictured here recording materials for the resource library.

Excellence with humility perfectly describes Ken Heinitz, pastor, Ph.D. and retired professor. Ken, or as we like to call him, “**Volunteer Extraordinaire**” has been volunteering at the LSEM Chicago, Illinois office for over 15 years!

Through the years, Ken faithfully went into the office every Wednesday morning to assist with whatever needed to be done. Ken has been invaluable, in helping the office staff organize the resource library and recently has been instrumental in helping with downsizing the office in Illinois.

Thank you does not seem adequate to express how grateful we are to Ken for his years of service to LSEM. But with grateful hearts we say “**thank you**” Ken, Volunteer Extraordinaire! May God bless you and keep you always in his care.

A Note of Thanks



Board Chair Retires

Paul Quitmeyer, LSEM Board of Trustees Chairman, announced his retirement from the board at the December 2010 board meeting. Paul has served on the LSEM board for more than 30 years.

Paul graduated with a B.S. in Accounting with distinction from Wayne State University. Paul’s skills and expertise have assisted LSEM in the area of finance and other business operations through his many years of service at LSEM.

Paul and his wife Cindy reside in Rochester, Michigan and are members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Utica, Michigan. They have two children and are blessed with four grandchildren and one on the way!

We are thankful for Paul and his many years of faithful service to LSEM. We pray that God will continue to bless him and his family now and in the future.

Want to Volunteer?

Do you have time to volunteer? Whether it’s stuffing envelopes, preparing Campbell’s soup labels, or helping with a fundraising event, the work at LSEM is made lighter with volunteers.

If you are interested contact the national office toll free at 888-488-LSEM (5736) ext. 108. The needs vary but if you have the time give us a call!

Student Poetry Pieces

GUS

**I am Gus; a striking yellow lab.
Come romp in my master’s sanctuary.**

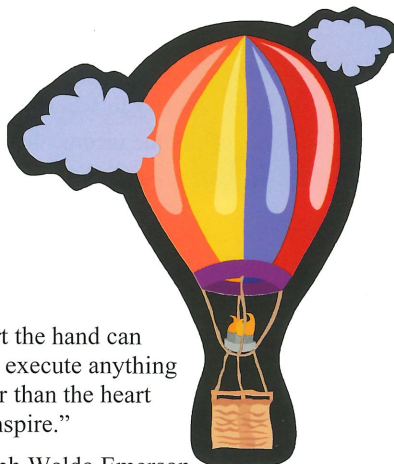
**I am Gus; hear me bark by day and
snore by night.**

**I am Gus; see my large paws,
wagging tail, and slimy tongue.**

**I am Gus; watch my splash
as I paddle through the hot tub.**

**I am Gus; hear me, see me, but watch out!
I may be watching you!**

By Sam



“In art the hand can never execute anything higher than the heart can inspire.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

HIPPOPOTAMUS

I do remember

It’s afternoon

In the zoo

A hippo is sulking in it’s shallow pool
A large crowd surrounds the place
It is very hot under the heat of the sun

There are many animals around
Only the large hippo amazes me

I’m at a large zoo

Next to a mammoth-sized animal

I examine the hippo’s behavior

He yawns

His massive mouth opens

I am exhilarated by the size of his jaw

By Rachel

My Journey

I once had a dream...

It’s daytime

In the bustling city,

It’s chilly outside

With a light wind

I don’t know where I am

Floating up.

I see where I am,

I’m floating in a bubble

I see the magical city below me.

Nervous and scared

I see my family laughing, happy

I speak but have no voice

I’m in a bubble that doesn’t pop

Floating into the clouds and...

Slowly drifting up...

By Skylar

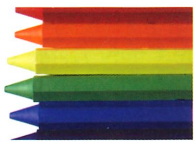


Pray For You

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 or call our national office toll free at 888-488-LSEM(5736) and we will include your request with our daily prayers.



Thank you to everyone for sending in your Campbell Soup labels. We are redeeming them for classroom equipment & supplies.



Thrivent Choice

Thank you to everyone who has designated Thrivent Choice Dollars to LSEM. If you are a Thrivent Member and would like to choose LSEM for your choice dollars call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice," or visit their website at www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Make sure to type out **Lutheran Special Education Ministries**.

Thank You!

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Make a Difference

Donations from friends like you are critical to meet the needs of the ever increasing number of children with special learning needs. We know from new statistics that as many as one in five children have special learning needs and that number is on the rise. We invite you to consider one of the following ways to help LSEM meet this need and make a difference in a child's life.

Annual Fund

We would like to encourage you to consider making a gift to our annual fund. Tax deductible gifts to our annual fund provide the necessary financial resources for the many school programs and services happening on a day-to-day basis, as well as new programs to help meet the need. If you make a gift today your gift will make a difference in the life of a child tomorrow.

Memorial & Honor Gifts

A gift to LSEM in memory of someone special is a wonderful way to pay tribute to that person while helping children today. Likewise, honoring an individual in celebration of a special occasion or achievement is a wonderful way to make a difference in a child's life. For Memorial and/or Honor Cards contact the national office at 888-488-LSEM (5736) ext. 107.

Matching Gifts

Many employers offer a program in which they will match your financial donation. You may contact your human resource or your employee benefits department to learn if your gift can be matched.

Endowment Fund

This fund allows the ministry to accomplish our mission by providing income to assist our programs and services. Only the income that is earned on this fund is used thus allowing your gift to keep on giving.

Planned Gifts

Making plans now for continuing your support to LSEM and other ministries is possible through a planned estate gift or bequest. If you would be interested in supporting the ministry in this way, you may call our national office at **888-488-LSEM (5736) ext. 108** and someone will be happy to assist you.

As we look to the future we know there is great potential for growth. LSEM receives no government funding or financial support from any national church body. Funding for our programs and services comes from fees, donations and investments.

We welcome your support and partnership in this important ministry. We believe that all gifts, large and small will make a difference in the life of a child today, and in the future.

*Grace Lorano
Communications Coordinator*

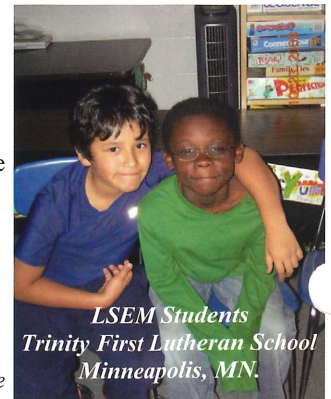
6th Annual Golf Outing

Mark your calendars for our 6th annual golf outing scheduled for **Friday, June 24, 2011**. This year's golf outing will take place once again at the Golden Hawk Golf Club in Casco, MI.

For more information on registration or if you would like to sponsor the event, visit our website at www.luthsped.org or call the LSEM National Office toll free at **888-488-LSEM (5736) ext. 104**. All proceeds from the event will benefit our programs and services in Christian schools across the country.

Thank you for your support and partnership in our mission to children with special learning needs.

LSEM Golf Event Committee



*LSEM Students
Trinity First Lutheran School
Minneapolis, MN.*