



LET THE CHILDREN COME

Opening Doors to Christian Education

2024-25
Annual Report

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN
COME TO ME AND DO NOT
HINDER THEM, FOR TO SUCH
BELONGS THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN.

Matthew 19:14



This past year has been one of meaningful growth, faithful perseverance, and renewed commitment to our mission. At Lutheran Special Education Ministries, we believe every child deserves access to a Christ-centered education where they are known, valued, and supported. Our theme this year—Opening Doors to Christian Education—reflects both our calling and the impact of your partnership. As I reflect on the previous year, I see example after example of ways we're serving the children placed in our care.

Across our schools, churches, and communities, LSEM has worked diligently to remove barriers that prevent students with diverse learning needs from thriving in their classrooms. Through expanded instructional support, professional development for educators, and strengthened partnerships with Lutheran schools and congregations, we have opened doors that once seemed closed to many families.

This year, LSEM educators and consultants walked alongside teachers to equip them with practical strategies, confidence, and compassion. We supported students not only academically, but emotionally and spiritually—helping them grow in their God-given gifts while remaining rooted in faith. Our work continues to affirm that Christian education is strongest when it is inclusive, responsive, and centered on Christ's love.

We also celebrate new opportunities for growth in programs and extended outreach. As demand

for services grows, LSEM has remained focused on sustainability and innovation, ensuring that our mission can continue to reach future generations. Every door opened represents a student welcomed, a family encouraged, and a school strengthened in its ministry.

None of this work happens alone. Your prayers, advocacy, and generosity make it possible for LSEM to continue serving students who learn differently while boldly proclaiming that they belong in Christian education. Thank you for walking with us in this important work.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to opening doors—doors to opportunity, belonging, and faith-filled learning. Together, we will continue to ensure that Christian education is accessible to students of all abilities, demonstrating the love God has for all of us. Thank you for your impactful support!



A message from
Stacy McGhee
President/CEO of LSEM

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy McGhee". The script is fluid and cursive.

LET THE CHILDREN COME...



**Opening Doors to Christian Education to Ensure
Every Child Has Access to Christian Education.**

Opening Doors In 2024-2025

Anchorage, AK
Phoenix, AZ
Yuma, AZ
Irvine, CA
Breckenridge, CO
Lakewood, CO
Daytona Beach, FL
River Forest, IL
Fort Wayne, IN
Indianapolis, IN
Ann Arbor, MI
Brighton, MI

Frankenmuth, MI
Higgins Lake, MI
Kindee, MI
Lansing, MI
Macomb, MI
Monroe, MI
Reed City, MI
Saginaw, MI
Sawyer, MI
Stevensville, MI
Utica, MI
Walled Lake, MI

Wayne, MI
Bloomington, MN
Cologne, MN
Elk River, MN
Hamburg, MN
Mayer, MN
Jefferson City, MO
St. Louis, MO
Milford, OH
Lincoln, NE
Virginia Beach, VA
Bonduel, WI

*Across these
communities, LSEM
is opening doors
through students
served, educators
equipped, and our
ministry shared.*



91

Partnership Schools

12

Partnership States

78

Educators Equipped

1,870

Students Impacted

OPENING BOOKS...



NEW DOORS OPENED

From Reactive Support to Sustainable Inclusion

At Immanuel, new doors are being opened by rethinking how special education lives inside a Christian school.

For years, support often came only after students struggled. **“Special education had become reactive instead of proactive,”** shared Brooke Weise. **“We were responding to challenges instead of building systems that supported students from the start.”**

That mindset is changing.

Through intentional professional learning, classroom coaching, and practical tools, teachers are being equipped to support diverse learners early and consistently. **“Teachers needed clarity and confidence, not more paperwork,”** Brooke explained. **“When teachers know what to do and feel supported, classrooms change.”**

And they have.

When support is built into instruction from the beginning, students no longer have to fight to be noticed or understood. **“Children are welcomed and supported from the moment they arrive,”**

Brooke said. **“They don’t have to wait to belong.”**

The impact is visible across the school:

- Students aren’t just accommodated; they are understood.
- Teachers aren’t overwhelmed; they are empowered.
- Families don’t feel alone; they feel partnered.

What is emerging at Immanuel is more than a program. It is a model—one that aligns teachers, administrators, and families around shared language, shared tools, and shared expectations.

“What we’ve built here is more than a program,” Brooke reflected. **“It’s a model—and it’s not meant to stay in just one school.”**

The door is open. Now it’s ready to be widened.

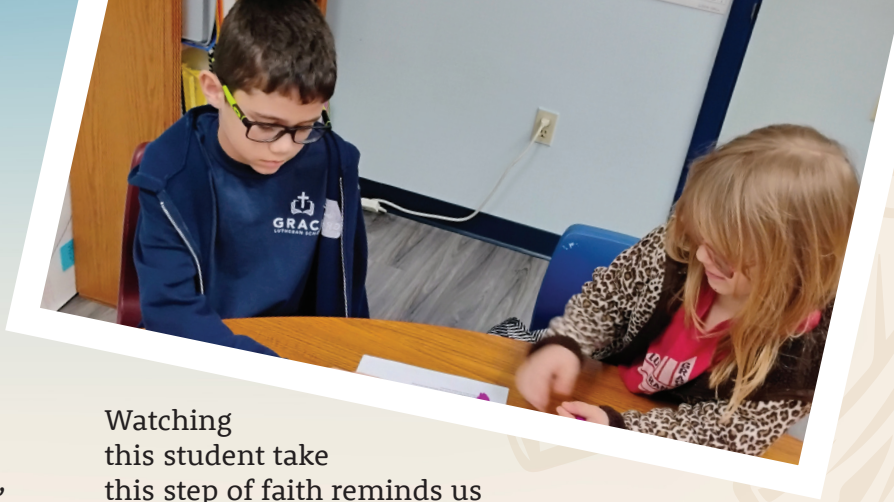
Brooke Weise
LSEM Teacher
Immanuel Lutheran School
Giddings, TX

WOW STORIES!

As a special education teacher, you become a jack of all trades—for all grades and subjects. You prepare alphabet clip cards on the same day you create algebraic equations. Days go by and it's easy to forget the WHY of what you are doing. Yes, you are helping the students, but you are serving the Savior.

There's been a family that has been an important part of the Grace community for over 10 years, and I've been privileged to work with both their children. During our weekly Chapel, I got to witness one of them come to the waters of baptism.

Here amongst the clips, stickers, and whiteboards, God did the ultimate work. This young man was washed clean, reborn, and welcomed as a member of God's family.



Watching this student take this step of faith reminds us of the importance of nurturing hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, both in the classroom and beyond.

Darla Beckwith
LSEM Teacher
Grace Lutheran School
Jacksonville, Florida

*These are the moments that remind us w
when children are not only supported in l*

WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US. 1 John 4:19

Recently I took some new students for testing as they were showing signs of struggling in reading. This can be an intimidating time, especially for younger students. I didn't realize how valuable this was until I tested "A."

The day I took "A" out to go through some tests, he asked, "So did I pass? Am I going to get to go work with you now?"

I just smiled at the thought. Here was a student who was looking forward to getting extra help—so much so that he was doing his best to "pass." I was the "special" teacher, not the special

education teacher at his school, and he was looking forward to coming to get some extra help in my classroom.

I also had the opportunity to fill in at another school with an LSEM program. A few weeks into my time there I heard quite often from a few students, "Do I get to go with you today?" or "Is it my turn yet?"

What a joy to hear that these students looked forward to their time in my classroom.

I know there can be times when "getting pulled" from the regular classroom may not feel so special, but I thank God that "A"

and several other students found it a privilege and a joy to come work with me on subjects that might be hard for them.

Lynn Zeddies
LSEM Teacher
Immanuel Lutheran School
Saginaw, MI

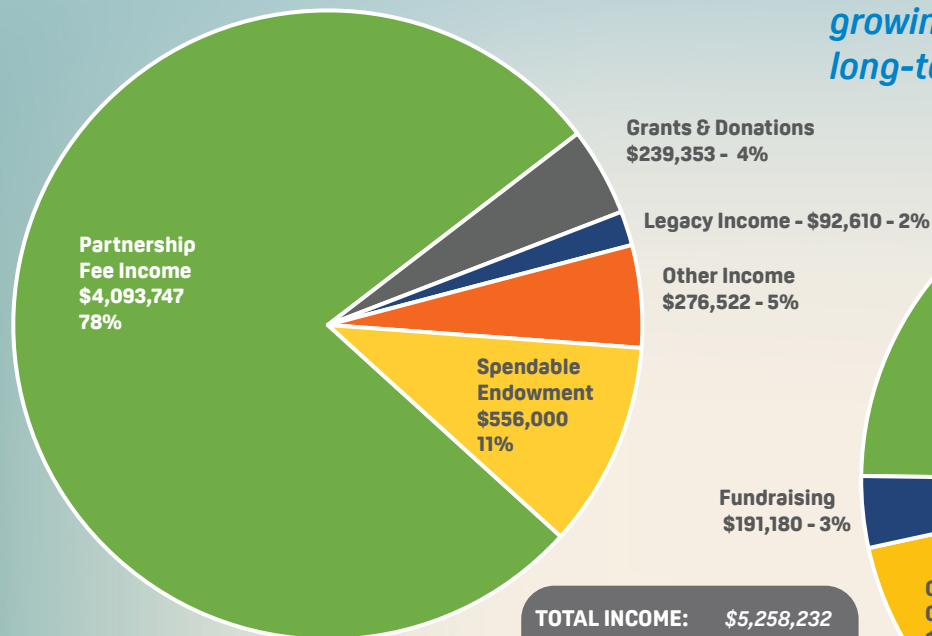


**Why access to Christian education matters—
learning but fully welcomed as God's own.**

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Opening Doors to Christian Education

2024-25 Financials

Alongside annual support, legacy and endowment commitments play a growing role in strengthening LSEM's long-term sustainability.

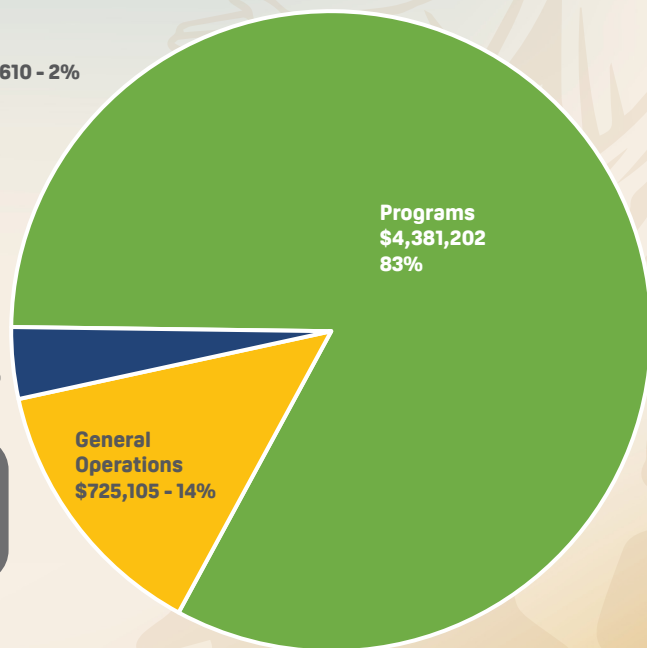


INCOME

TOTAL INCOME: \$5,258,232

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$5,297,487

SURPLUS (DEFICIT): (-\$39,255)



EXPENSES

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Opening Doors to Christian Education

THE LUTHERAN EDUCATION PODCAST

LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES



Over Eight Seasons of The Lutheran Education Podcast

Hear real stories, helpful insights, and meaningful conversations from Lutheran educators about Lutheran education. Don't miss it—subscribe today on your favorite platform!



Scan the
QR code to
listen!





Christmas Tea

Gathering to give thanks for God's faithfulness — and to look ahead together.

Some faithfulness is lived out in the present moment. Other expressions take shape over time.

At the Christmas Tea, we celebrate the season and give thanks for faithfulness that has taken root across years and generations. In a changing landscape for Christian education and social ministry, ministries endure when God's people undergird them with prayer, presence, and sustained generosity.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is a living example of that truth.

1873 Legacy Society.

Members of the 1873 Legacy Society include LSEM in their estate plans, helping ensure access to Christian education continues for generations to come.

At this year's Christmas Tea, we were honored to recognize **Pastor Thomas Schroeder** and **Joyce Patterson** for their legacy commitments and enduring faithfulness.

As you prayerfully consider the gifts God has entrusted to you, reflect on how your legacy might continue to open doors for children who learn differently, now and for generations to come.

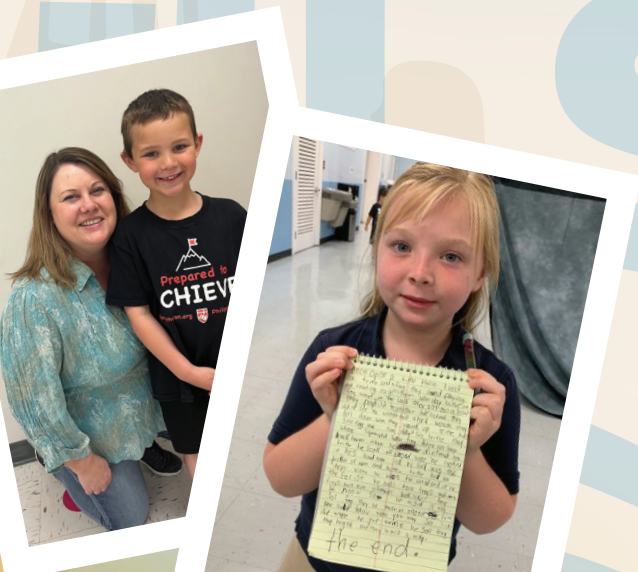
Founders Circle

Founders Circle members are recognized for cumulative lifetime giving of \$25,000 or more. Their generosity reflects years (often decades) of steady support, advocacy, and belief in this ministry.

(Top) Paige Henning, former student of LSEM teacher Karyn Anspach, joined us at the Christmas Tea as a living testament to the doors LSEM helps open for children who learn differently. (Middle) Reverend Thomas Schroeder and his wife Joyce Patterson with CEO Stacy McGhee. (Bottom) Reverend Darryl Andrzejewski.

We were honored to recognize **Mrs. Carol Stuhr**, whose faithful generosity has helped strengthen the foundation upon which LSEM continues to serve schools, educators, and families.

Because of partners like these, faithfulness does not stop with one generation. It is carried forward so that children who learn differently continue to be welcomed, supported, and pointed to Christ.



A FAITHFUL RESPONSE

Legacy giving is not about outcomes or returns. It is an act of trust, rooted in the confidence that God is faithful to His promises.

Scripture reminds us that “from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded” (Luke 12:48), and that we are called to be “faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10). Through legacy gifts and long-term commitments, faithful partners help ensure that:

- **The Gospel continues to be proclaimed with clarity, compassion, and conviction for generations to come.**
- **Ministry is sustained and strengthened, even as seasons and circumstances change.**
- **Children and families are formed in faith, grounded in Scripture and surrounded by Christ-centered community.**
- **Leaders are equipped and sent, prepared to serve the Church and the world with humility and courage.**
- **Practical care remains available and a stable foundation is built for those who come after us.**

Because God is faithful, we can respond with faithfulness, entrusting the future to the One who already holds it.

A FAITHFUL NEXT STEP



FAITHFUL
LSEM
SHEPHERDS

If the Lord is stirring your heart, we invite you to respond in faith. Faithful stewardship can take shape in the present, over years, and beyond our lifetime, and LSEM is strengthened when God's people respond in more than one way.

Be a Faithful Shepherd:

- **Pray** for students, families, educators, and schools.
- **Speak** about what God is doing through LSEM.
- **Advocate** for Christ-centered support for children who learn differently.
- **Stand in the gap** with consistent support when needs rise.

Leave a Legacy Gift

Include LSEM in your will or estate plans (a will provision, beneficiary designation, trust, or other planned gift). Legacy giving is an act of trust extending faithful stewardship to those who come after us.

Support the Endowment

A gift to LSEM's endowment strengthens long-term stability and helps ensure that Christ-centered support and Christian education remain available for generations to come.

To learn more, contact [Nicole LeGalley](mailto:nlegalley@luthsped.org) at nlegalley@luthsped.org or visit luthsped.org/give.

Join us at Historic Trinity for our 2026 Christmas Tea on December 3, 2026, to celebrate the season, honor the 1873 Legacy Society and Founders Circle, and to hear powerful testimonials from schools and families about the impact of LSEM's work. Together, we will give thanks for God's faithfulness and prayerfully consider our next faithful response—to pray, speak, advocate, and stand in the gap through the Faithful Shepherd Program, and to strengthen this ministry through endowment support and legacy gifts for generations to come.



YOU ASKED.
WE LISTENED.

21st Anniversary Golf Outing

This year, LSEM's 21st Annual Golf Outing will be held on **Friday, June 19, 2026**, at a **NEW LOCATION: Stonebridge Golf Club in Ann Arbor, Michigan.**

This new location and timing reflect our commitment to meeting partners where they are—opening doors to greater participation and deeper support for children who learn differently.



Scan the QR code
to register!

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Connect with LSEM online to stay informed on the impact of our mission, find resources and support, and grow your own knowledge of special education in today's classroom.

Like, subscribe, and share!



LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES

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