

# LASE

Spring 2016

# connections

## Team Efforts = Academic Success

### LASE PARTNERS WITH ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Abiding Savior Lutheran School offers a unique model of educational support for its students and families. The Academic Success Center, in its first year and under the guidance of principal, Zachary Klug, is designed to serve all students by providing services to any child who encounters an academic challenge.



L to R: Jenny Giallanzo, Beth Beisher, Erin Lahue, Cindy Mueller and Zachary Klug.

Through a collaborative effort of the Academic Success Center Team, general education teachers, students and families, interventions are identified, a plan put into place, and progress monitored until the student's goal is reached. For those students with ongoing educational challenges, The Center's team coordinates individualized services which continue through the school year.

The Academic Success Center team is made up of three certified special education teachers: LASE Educational Resource Consultant, Cindy Mueller, Abiding Savior's Academic Success Coaches, Erin Lahue and Karla Meyer, and three teacher aides. The team is invaluable in supporting students throughout the school day and providing daily communication with classroom teachers, students and their parents.

Mr. Klug expresses the mission of the project this way, "We believe that God has created each of us individually with our own set of strengths and weaknesses. Our goal is to celebrate students' strengths and provide services for those with unique learning needs."

## One Family's Journey

Giri Basnet hoped that, one day, he would be able to start a new life in the United States. Ten years later, that dream came true when Giri left his modest home in a Nepalese refugee camp with his family: wife, Bhim, and sons, Pukar and Sujan. Settling in South St. Louis, Giri and Bhim enrolled their sons in Word of Life Lutheran School. Adjusting academically was more difficult for Sujan. His spoken English and listening comprehension slowly

developed, but managing the demands of reading and writing in this new language became increasingly harder. Through the LASE English Language Project and special education teachers, Mara Springer and Janey Menner, interventions were put into place and Sujan began to make gains. Soon, his teachers recognized that Sujan's challenges may not be linked to second language acquisition but more to attention and learning difficulties.



L to R: Giri, Pukar, Bhim and Sujan

Fast forward three years! Sujan is now in Laurie Jones's fifth grade class managing all of his subjects with his classmates and learning about the love of Jesus. Giri has moved his family into their newly purchased home and Pukar is preparing for high school. The Basnet's journey, along with Sujan's own school journey, have been long but hope-filled and blessed.

*Please check out an article written by Sujan and brother, Pukar, "The Elephant and Grampa's House" on Page Four of the newsletter.*

## LASE MISSION STATEMENT

Lutheran Association for Special Education will assist and support schools to address the cognitive, social and spiritual development of children with special needs, so they may fully enjoy their God-given potential.

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## GRANT SUPPORT

THANK YOU *to the following*  
LASE Supporters:

- ▶ Cardinals Care
- ▶ St. Louis Christmas Carols
- ▶ Employees Community Fund of Boeing
- ▶ Concordia Outbound Ministries

## From the Acting Director

**"...WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE,"  
MATTHEW 18:26**

The verse above is the LASE staff theme verse this school year. Little did we know that in the first months of the school year, we would be faced with the passing of our dear friend and leader, Lori Christiansen. This year has been a difficult one as we have all been faced with new challenges and a road that, at times, has seemed rocky. However, it is at times like these that we are most struck by God's mighty power and grace. Our Herald the Holidays fundraiser hosted a record number of attendees, and the funds raised will allow us to continue to nurture the children that we serve to grow in their faith and the unique gifts God has given them. We know that with God, all things are possible, and, more than ever, we are committed to being leaders in the field of providing a faith-based education for students with special needs. Thank you for your continued support of our ministry.



LASE Acting  
Director, Chris  
Tomlinson

## LASE's 2016 Jeremiah Award

**ATONEMENT LUTHERAN SCHOOL TEACHER, PATRICIA LANDWEHR,  
MODELS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING**



Atonement students  
celebrate Patty as  
she receives the 2016  
LASE Jeremiah Award.

Mark Briggs, Principal, Atonement Lutheran School in Florissant, nominated fifth grade teacher, Patricia Landwehr for the LASE Jeremiah Award which recognizes a general education teacher who has gone above and beyond to meet the unique education needs of students in the classroom, especially those students with disabilities. Mark states, "As a parent of a child who has special needs, Patty brings an exceptional disposition and empathy to help all students achieve academic success and total development, especially children who have disabilities and special needs." She sets that example for all of her students to develop the same level of care and understanding for their peers.

Patty was awarded the 2016 LASE Jeremiah Award during chapel services at Atonement, so students could share in her celebration. LASE Resource Teacher, Kim Paquette, and LASE Speech Pathologist, Carol Lima, commended her on the use of technology in her classroom so students are able to learn at their own pace. She utilizes co-operative learning projects during the year which promote and link collaborative, real world expectations. This is a great way to prepare students for future career experiences that require tolerance and understanding for coworkers with varying levels of ability. Atonement staff, parents and students share a respect and fondness for Patty and her loving, patient manner as she demonstrates her faith on a daily basis.



L to R: Chris Tomlinson, LASE  
Acting Director, Kim Paquette, LASE  
Resource Teacher, Patricia Landwehr,  
Teacher and Mark Briggs, Principal at  
Atonement Lutheran School.

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## Jesus, The True Gift of the Holidays

More than three hundred guests celebrated “Christmas Unwrapped” at LASE’s Herald the Holidays event at the Frontenac Hilton. The festive atmosphere put everyone in the holiday spirit, as ladies shopped the silent auction, tasted the gourmet lunch and enjoyed the models in their stylish outfits from Ann Taylor and Eileen



Guests from Concordia Publishing House enjoy their day of celebration for the children of LASE.

Fisher. Diana Meers, Principal of Immanuel Lutheran School in St. Charles, expressed her gratitude for the LASE partnership to her school community, as she introduced Student Ambassador, Averi Budde. The power of God’s grace was felt by every guest as Averi and her mom shared their touching story of

challenges that began at birth and have continued throughout their family’s life. The blessing of their experience with LASE faculty and services in a Christian environment have impacted and enhanced their daily lives.

## LASE Insight Series Workshops for Teachers and Parents

LASE is thrilled to announce the expansion of the annual LASE Insight Series Workshop to include a parent session on Thursday, August 4th, followed by the Lutheran teacher workshop on Friday, August 5th. This year’s workshops will feature **Lori Benson Adams, M.Ed. of Breakthrough Learning**



Lori Benson Adams, M.Ed., of Breakthrough Learning Solutions.

**Systems** in Atlanta, GA. Lori is a nationally-recognized speaker, having presented in 45 states. The focus of her workshops will include the importance of brain-based teaching and visual learning featuring support strategies for students with weak Executive Functioning Skills (EFS). EFS include the ability to pay attention, plan out time, set goals, accomplish tasks, control emotions and remember information- skills that are vital to school and life success. LASE is excited to have the opportunity to provide a speaker of such high quality who understands the mission of the Insight Series, which is *to meet the needs of all learners by partnering with general education classroom teachers and families.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 8, 2016 (Friday)

### Let’s Get Purse-onal

The Edge of Webster  
359 Marshall Avenue Webster Groves, MO  
Silent auction of new and gently used purses  
Appetizers, margaritas, beverages and desserts served  
Ticket price of \$25, Student rate of \$20 (under age 21)  
Reserved tables of eight guests

June 20, 2016 (Monday)

### Thirty-Fourth Annual Golf Tournament

Sunset Country Club, Sunset Hills, MO  
4 person scramble, lunch, oral auction, evening cocktails with appetizer buffet dinner  
Registration: \$225 per person. Sponsorship, volunteer & donation opportunities available.  
Noon Shotgun Start - Mega Tickets, Mulligans, Skins and Hole Contests

August 4, 2016 (Thursday)

Evening LASE Insight Series Parent Workshop  
Topic: **Academic Success Strategies**

August 5, 2016 (Friday)

LASE Insight Series Teacher Workshop  
Topic: **Executive Functioning Skills**

November 12, 2016 (Saturday)

### Herald the Holidays

Orlando’s Event Center in Maryland Heights  
Luncheon, Silent Auction and Costume Parade by The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis  
Silent Auction: 9:30am – 11:30am  
Tickets: \$55 per person – May reserve tables of ten

For more information visit [lutheranspeciald.org](http://lutheranspeciald.org) Events Page, register online at [lutheranspeciald.auctionreg.org/registration](http://lutheranspeciald.auctionreg.org/registration) or call 314.268.1234

## NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Lutheran Association for Special Education admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

## The Story of Kelly Seitz-Klima, LASE Alumna

### LEARNING IS LIKE PUTTING A PBJ SANDWICH TOGETHER...

When Kelly Seitz-Klima is asked what she remembers of her grade school experience at Salem, Affton, she says, "Order and sequence (like putting a peanut butter and jelly sandwich together) is the strategy that made it click for me in the classroom. Kelly received academic support for her struggles with reading from the LASE resource room at Salem - one of the longest running resource programs in St. Louis. "The resource



Kelly and Chris on their wedding day.

teacher gave me one-on-one instruction and tools to learn the way I needed to have academic success."

Now Kelly, a Teacher Aide in the Fox School District, is using her LASE experience at Salem to help students succeed and feel the same sense of accomplishment and self esteem she was taught. "I feel like I am creative with solutions on how to

help students cope with their disabilities and succeed. Patience is most important – having it and teaching it."

Kelly's biggest source of pride is her loving husband, Chris, who "believes in me and tells me to follow my dream. I have learned that sometimes you have to modify those dreams, but you can still achieve them! Thank you to my husband, teachers, family and friends who are always behind me—pushing and encouraging. I love and cherish you!"

LASE Educational Consultant reports: "I was new at my school this year, so I was just getting to know my students. I took a student for instruction and when finished I said, 'I enjoyed working with you' and he said, 'Yeah. You did OK. I think this is going to work.' Considering this student does not deal well with change, his comment really made me smile. Approval from a child is priceless."



## The Elephant and Grampa's House

### BY PUKAR AND LASE STUDENT, SUJAN BASNET (WORD OF LIFE)

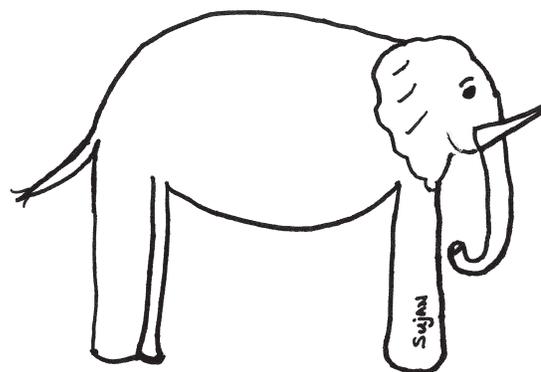
A river ran not far from my house. The jungle was behind it. The river was a dry bed that spring. It was late at night and we were asleep. My brother, Pukar, was staying at Grampa's house. Dad heard a noise coming from the dried up riverbed. He took a lantern to see what he could find.

Dad looked up the road toward Grampa's. From the light of the lantern he saw what was making the noise. An elephant! The light must have scared him. He started to swing his trunk. That is all it took to knock down the market next door. All the rice, biscuits and peanuts were sucked up by his trunk!

Then it was on to Grampa's. Pukar was hiding under the bed. He had felt something cold, damp, and sticky come



Sujan and teacher, Laurie Jones, at Word of Life Lutheran School



Sujan's drawing of the elephant

toward him.....The elephant's trunk! Grampa shouted, "Run, Pukar, run!" And he did, just before the bamboo wall of Grampa's house collapsed. He was not hurt. When Dad got there, Pukar was gone. Everyone thought the worst. But, he was safe farther down the road.

More people with fire sticks were coming out to see about all the racket. That is when the elephant, now as scared as we were, slowly stepped backward into the jungle. We will never forget this experience!

