

# LASE

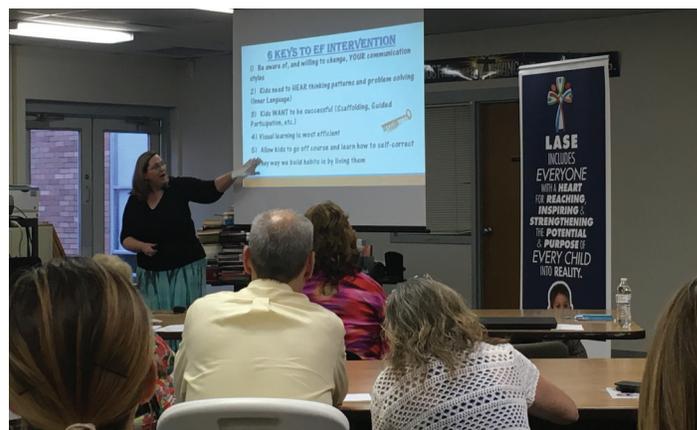
# connections

Fall 2016

## LASE Insight Series Workshops Start New School Year Off Right!

**OFFERING ENCOURAGEMENT, SUPPORT AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS**

What a great feeling it was to see parents and teachers welcoming each other to a new school year filled with hope and promise for their students. Lutheran Association for Special Education was proud to host two workshop opportunities at Lutheran High School South, presented by nationally acclaimed **Lori Benson Adams of Breakthrough Learning Solutions** of Atlanta, Georgia. On August 4th, an enthusiastic group of 30+ parents met, and on August 5th over 250 general and special education teachers embraced her expertise on the science of how the brains of students with ADHD, autism and dyslexia function. Ms. Benson Adams offered vital strategies to help these students with academic success both during the school day and with homework issues at home.



Presenter, Lori Benson Adams and parents share helpful strategy tips.

**Parents were fully engaged and shared their gratitude for Lori's expertise:**

*We did not know where to begin with trying to make sense of all the chaos in our son's life, but after coming to the workshop it makes sense. Finally!*

*We did not even know how to address these issues, but at least now we have a blueprint to follow.*

**Teachers were grateful for the interactive presentation stating:**

*One of the BEST workshops I have ever been to!*

*I felt that she related practical ways to help all students and not just the ones who struggle with different issues.*

*I will be able to set into action the strategies I learned at the workshop, beginning with the first day of school.*



Teachers left the workshop equipped with tools to assist all their students.

## 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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## From Our (New) Executive Director

### I DON'T KNOW MUCH, BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I DO KNOW...

I'm going to be honest with you – starting a new job is stressful. On June 1st, I didn't know much! It didn't matter that I had 18 years' experience in the nonprofit industry (14 of which were in private schools) or that I had a Master's Degree, or that I had the best of intentions. Understanding what we do, how to adapt to a new culture, learn a different routine, manage the day to day operations and build new relationships is all a part of the process. It's a humbling evolution and I have to remind myself that God is always with me. "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

However, I can tell you what I **do** know!

**I know** we serve exceptional children – *very* special girls and boys that want to belong, feel accepted, and do well in school. Yes, they struggle academically and have a difficult time with organization, time management and making friends.

**I know** we have amazing faculty and staff that take great pride in doing whatever it takes to reach, inspire and strengthen the potential and purpose of every child of the King.

**I know** we are extremely blessed to have a community of volunteers that supports us and is dedicated to our children. Their generosity in both time and donations helps us maintain the exceptional quality of our program while helping us expand and reach more children who need us.

And most importantly, **I know** that God is forever present. Everything we do, every life we touch, every hurdle we face, and every success we witness, is due to His will.

That much, I do know.

In His Service,  
Jackie

*\* On a side note, I am humbled to have the honor to lead this amazing organization and build on the tremendous foundation laid by former Executive Director Lori Christiansen, the board, faculty and staff. Without their unprecedented dedication and commitment, LASE would not be where it is today. On a more personal note, filling Lori's shoes will not be easy, but with your input, participation, support and prayers, we can continue her legacy that **all** LASE students will continue to thrive and reach their God-given potential.*



LASE Executive Director,  
Jackie Smith

## From the Assistant Director

### CAPS FOR SALE! HATS FOR SALE!

When I first began my teaching career for LASE in a Resource Room at Word of Life Lutheran School 23 years ago, I frequently read the book, "Caps for Sale" to my students. Picture the peddler who walked around all morning with his caps (hats) piled high on his head and the mischievous monkeys who remove them from his head as he naps under a tree.

*(continued on next page)*



LASE Assistant Director, Karen Wittmayer

### GRANT SUPPORT

THANK YOU *to the following LASE Supporters:*

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

*(continued)*

During my 20+ year career at LASE, I have been blessed to wear many hats – all while helping children “reach their God-given potential.” Through serving as a resource teacher, preschool screener, educational consultant, facilitator and now Assistant Director, I have seen God use LASE in amazing ways to touch the lives of students with disabilities and special needs.

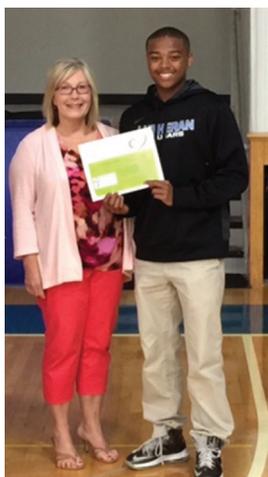
The primary responsibilities of Assistant Director are to provide support, advocacy, mentoring, facilitation and solutions to teachers, as well as to parents, students, staff and principals. As I visit our LASE teachers, consultants and therapists all over the St. Louis area I realize that they wear many hats, too. Our LASE staff are cheerleaders, counselors, science gurus, reading teachers, collaborators, co-teachers, experts and listening ears to all they come in contact with. Because of this, it’s an exciting time to be a member of the LASE team as we seek to “Serve as One, Because of the Son.”

## Dreams Do Come True!

### 2017 LASE GRADUATE ACCEPTED TO UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI STATE

Terry Tatum, LASE student and senior at Lutheran High School St. Charles (LHSSC), has a lot to celebrate as he finishes his high school experience! We are proud to announce that Terry has been accepted to the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO.

Terry and his parents chose LHSSC because of their partnership with the LASE Learning Center that offered customized strategies and support for his learning difficulties. Throughout his time there, Terry’s high school experiences have included him being a member of the National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, track team, and varsity wrestling team. His accomplishments include receiving several scholarships and a variety of awards recognizing excellence in athletics, academics, leadership and volunteerism. Terry states, “The LASE program helped prepare me for college through an individualized approach to my learning style that fostered independence and responsibility. My LASE instructor, Sue Klobnak, constantly worked with me on reflection of my goals, strengths, weaknesses, strategies and resources to empower me to advocate for myself.” Terry’s advice for future LASE students includes, “... work with your LASE instructor to ID and understand everything you can about your unique learning style. Then you can begin to work on strategies that will help you overcome any education obstacles that arise in high school and even further into college.”



Terry Tatum and his LASE Resource Teacher, Sue Klobnak, receiving one of his many awards at LHSSC.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 12, 2016 (Saturday)

### Herald the Holidays

Orlando’s Event Center in Maryland Heights Luncheon, Silent Auction and St. Louis Rep’s Costume Parade

Silent Auction: 9:30am – 11:30am

Tickets: \$55 per person

\$550 reserved tables of ten

April 7, 2017 (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, wine, beverages and desserts served

Tickets: \$30

Student rate: \$25 (under age 21)

\$240 reserved tables of eight

June 19, 2017 (Monday)

### Thirty-Fifth 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.

Mega Tickets, Mulligans, Skins and Hole  
Contests

For more information visit Events Page at  
[lutheranspecial.org](http://lutheranspecial.org) or call 314-268-1234

## NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

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

# What's Happening at LASE

**SERVING AS ONE, BECAUSE OF THE SON.  
“...WE, WHO ARE MANY, ARE ONE BODY IN  
CHRIST.” ROMANS 12:5.**

Please join us at LASE in celebrating 60 years of reaching, inspiring and strengthening the potential and purpose of every child of the King. Lutheran Association for Special Education began with the dream and vision of parents who longed for their children with disabilities to be in a Christian education setting. LASE began with a class of just five students in 1956 at Hope Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Today, LASE has grown to be a Christian community agency serving 14 Lutheran Schools in the Greater St. Louis, Missouri area, including St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County. Happy Birthday, LASE!!



Happy 60th Birthday, LASE!! God's blessings to all the children and families LASE has served.

Unity is the faculty theme for the 2016-17 school year as we “serve as One because of the Son.” The LASE faculty and staff include a quality blending of experience and fresh perspectives for best practices in special education. New leadership for LASE includes **Jackie Smith, Executive Director**, who brings a wealth of experience in nonprofit management, resource development, marketing and educational resources for special needs students.

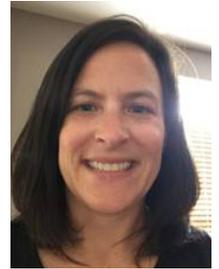
Partnering with her as **Assistant Director** is **Karen Wittmayer**, who will split her time – 3 days as the Assistant Director, and 2 days serving as Educational Consultant at Our Savior in Fenton and Immanuel Lutheran School in Olivette. Her priority is to provide leadership to the faculty and act as liaison with LASE school principals and teachers.



It's been a long break, but we once again have a male teacher joining the ranks of our 18 member LASE faculty. **Cody Eitzmann** will serve as a special education teacher at Immanuel Lutheran School in Wentzville, along with LASE Educational Resource Consultant, Heidi Welply. Cody joins us as a recent graduate of Concordia

University-Seward and is newly married to wife, Taylor, who is a preschool teacher with him at Immanuel.

**Tara Copeland** is another new blessing to the LASE faculty. She brings many talents to her new position as LASE Educational Consultant at Salem Lutheran School in Black Jack. Tara, who is a parent of students at Immanuel Lutheran School in Olivette, was eager to join us as a LASE faculty member. She is known as “Coach Copeland” due to her many years serving as freshmen girls’ basketball coach at Parkway South High School.



## 34th Annual LASE Golf Tournament

Thanks to all the guests who helped us Tee it Up for the Kids of LASE at Sunset Country Club on June 20th! The 98 degree day didn't dampen their champion spirits of support for the special children of LASE. Our tournament netted over \$86,000 which represents the depth, commitment and partnership of our sponsors, golf committee members, board members, faculty, staff and many volunteers.



Tyler was overjoyed that his principal won the trophy for Zion Lutheran!

We need to acknowledge and honor our Honorary Chair, Tom Ackerman of KMOX who served as co-auctioneer with Dave Drewes of Thrivent Financial. Also, the LASE golf committee represents an incredible group of Christians, professionals and family men: Co-Chairs - Dean Eggerding and Tom Dankenbring, Paul Kowert, Dave Drewes, Carl Winters, Dave Kuenzel, and Aaron Telle. 2016 LASE Student Ambassador, Tyler Paul and parents, Scott and Carla, embraced the day and exemplified the power of advocacy for our special needs students. It was a wonderful ending to the day for Tyler when his school's foursome was presented with the 2016 tournament champion trophy!



**Tournament Champions:**  
Ass't Principal, Brandon Marolf, Principal, Marc Debrick, Tyler, LHSSC Head of School, Craig Ernstmeyer and Activities Director, Doug Kuhlmann.

