

# Annual Report

...“With man this is impossible, but *with God all things are possible.*”  
—Matthew 19:26

Dear Friend of LASE,

The 2016–17 school year was a change for LASE. The footprint of our ministry is extensive and we are both proud of our rich 60-year legacy and excited about continuing



Thank you NLSA Accreditation Team!

to touch the lives of thousands of students academically, socially and spiritually.

With the hiring of Jackie Smith as Executive Director (in June 2016), the first priority during the 2016–17 school year was to successfully complete the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA)

process. NLSA serves as the accrediting body for Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Through a self-study process, NLSA comprehensively evaluates compliance with national standards that reflect the seven essential standards expected by Lutheran programs. LASE faculty, staff, board and key volunteers worked tirelessly and in unity to complete this 9-month process. It gave us the opportunity to really understand how broadly we touch the lives of God’s children every day. We are thankful to the NLSA team for their guidance, and we are pleased and proud to have received full accreditation in May of 2017.

Thanks to our generous community of donors and partners, LASE brings quality ‘individualized’ education services to children struggling with learning. In 2016–17 we touched the lives of 973 students in our 14 Lutheran Schools, helping them to be equipped, supported and empowered so they can flourish. For a small ministry,

LASE has tremendous impact and we are now seeking new opportunities and partnerships so we can reach more children and families who need us.

The 2017–18 school year is a strategic planning year for LASE and we are excited to be developing a new vision and direction to address the unique needs of children who learn differently, in more schools, in more ways and with more children.

We have a lot to do. We value your continued support and prayer.

With God’s blessings and guidance, we can do it! Always.

In His Service,

*Bette Schlie*  
Bette Schlie  
President of the Board

*Jackie Smith*  
Jackie A. Smith, M.A.  
Executive Director

## CHILDREN'S LIVES YOU SUPPORTED IN 2016-17

41	English Language Learners
53	Speech and Language Therapy
181	Observations, Monitoring, and Consultation
230	Resource Services
70	Educational Resource Consultant Services
398	Speech and Language Screening and/or Testing

**973 Total Lives Changed Because of Your Generosity**

## SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

\$5,235	Elementary Scholarships
\$15,950	High School Scholarships for The LASE Learning Center (Luth. High St. Charles)
\$49,066	Grant Support to Lutheran Schools

**\$70,251 Total Scholarships/Grants Awarded 2016–17**

**LASE MISSION STATEMENT**

LASE provides Christ-centered education to students with unique learning needs so they can grow academically, socially and spiritually.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Bette Schlie, *Chair*
- Don Hugo, *Vice-Chair*
- Bill Hauk, *Treasurer*
- Michele Berra
- Joe Bordeaux
- Diana Meers
- Steve Siepman
- Sue Torbeck

**ADVISORY BOARD**

- Paul Crisler
- Dave Drewes
- Warren Fick
- Alan Freeman
- Boone Jackson
- Chris James
- Sandy Meyer
- Ted Schuessler
- Kermit Starnes
- Robert Wold

- Jackie Smith  
*Executive Director*
- Karen Wittmayer  
*Assistant Director*
- Karen Scuito  
*Director of Fundraising & Events*

## LASE Revenue and Expenses

FISCAL YEAR AUGUST 1, 2016 TO JULY 31, 2017

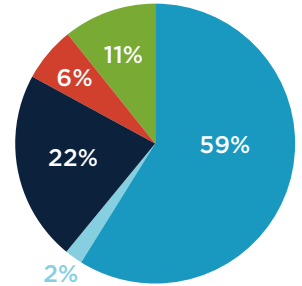
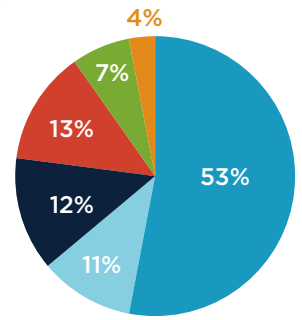
**Revenue**

Contract and School Tuition	686, 115	53%
Fundraising	143, 054	11%
School Health Services	164,146	12%
Donations	166,229	13%
Grants	91,167	7%
Interest and Dividends	50,914	4%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,301,625</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Expenses**

Educational	\$728,565	59%
Tuition Assistance	21,185	2%
Management and General	267,446	22%
Fundraising and Development	73,136	6%
Health Services	139,259	11%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,229,591</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Total Operating Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 72,034</b>
<b>Net Gain (Loss) on Investments</b>	<b>\$ 209,491</b>
<b>Increase/Decrease in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 281,525</b>



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—Matthew 19:26*

For over 60 years, LASE has provided exceptional customized special education services to students in Lutheran schools. LASE professionals served 973 children in 14 Lutheran schools in the metropolitan St. Louis area during the 2016–17 school year.

We provide services to students with mild to moderate disabilities including learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, high functioning autism, language impaired and others. In addition to serving students with diagnosed educational disabilities, we are able to identify and serve students evaluated as “at risk” or who are identified as “non-disabled” but still need individualized attention in order to be successful.

The LASE mission to develop the God-given potential of every child is accomplished by providing special education expertise, consultations, speech/language services and other assistance programs that are customized for the schools we serve. LASE has impacted the lives of thousands of students while sharing the good news of Jesus.



**LASE PARTNER SCHOOLS 2016-2017**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

- |                |                            |                          |                   |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Abiding Savior | Immanuel, Olivette         | Messiah Lutheran School— | Salem, Affton     |
| Atonement      | Immanuel, St. Charles      | Weldon Spring (2017)     | Salem, Black Jack |
| Child of God   | Immanuel, Wentzville       | Our Savior, Fenton       | Word of Life      |
| Green Park     | Lutheran High, St. Charles | St. John’s Arnold (2017) | Zion, St. Charles |
|                |                            | St. Mark’s, Eureka       |                   |



## LASE Donors, Sponsors and Event Supporters 2016–2017

**THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH LASE AND SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN!  
EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF THIS LIST.**

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**SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES (NURSING)**

Christ Community  
Grace Chapel  
Green Park (Associate)  
Immanuel, Olivette  
St. John, Ellisville  
St. Paul's, Des Peres  
Zion, St. Charles

**OUR LASE PROMISE:** LASE partners with parents, educators, and schools by providing solution-focused expertise and encouragement that transforms their desire to inspire the God-given potential of every child into reality.

LASE DONORS, SPONSORS, AND EVENT SUPPORTERS 2016-2017 (CONT.'D)

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