

LASE

connections

Fall 2018

Karen Keske, Be Who You Are!

“THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.” —Psalm 118:24

Each day is a rich and precious gift from God, filled with grace and new opportunities. Karen Keske lives by this philosophy. She has suffered many challenges and tragic events, yet remains grounded in her faith and focused on her blessings. In 1972, David Keske, with much encouragement from his wife, Karen, took the risk, got the loan and began the company known as Foam Supplies, Inc. Together, they built the company, engaged loyal employees and today FSI is an internationally successful leader in the polyurethane industry. Following the loss of Dave in 2016, son, Todd, stepped up to continue the legacy and has thrived in his leadership role. Karen instilled strong moral values in Todd,



Lauren, Karen and Todd Keske

encouraging him always to “KNOW WHO YOU ARE and BE WHO YOU ARE.” Karen’s strong intelligence, honesty, forward thinking and strong faith are an inspiration to many. She is a loyal volunteer for the Assistance League of St. Louis, and an active member at Good Shepherd

Lutheran Church.

The Keske family and Foam Supplies, Inc. have loyally supported LASE, serving as our Golf Tournament Partner for 15 years. Karen is treasured as a donor, an encourager, a motivator and an advocate for the children of LASE, encouraging them to KNOW WHO YOU ARE and BE WHO YOU ARE.

We rejoice and are grateful for her every day.

Lase Insight Series Workshops



Special thanks to
Immanuel Lutheran
School Olivette

“This was an absolutely amazing workshop. Eye-opening and valuable info was presented. I’m leaving with great tools and information.”

“The presenter was engaging and spoke about topics that are extremely relevant in today’s classroom.”

LASE kicked off the 2018–19 school year with three well-received Insight Series Workshops featuring nationally recognized educator, consultant and presenter, Lori Benson Adams, M.Ed., Director of Breakthrough Learning Solutions, Atlanta, Georgia. The interactive parent workshop, *Breakthrough Solutions for the Distracted and Disorganized Child*, presented new research findings, ideas and strategies. The educator workshops focused on: *Identifying and Addressing Dyslexia and Executive Functioning and the Teenage Brain*. These workshops impacted **350 attendees and participants from 21 Missouri schools, 4 Illinois schools and 8 private schools or agencies**. Special thanks to Lori Benson Adams for sharing her impressive talents and expertise!

LASE MISSION

STATEMENT

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

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Be the Light

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The LASE theme this year is—Be the LIGHT!

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they might see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven.” Matthew 5:14–16.

In this life we have two choices. We can be a part of the darkness or we can be the light! We are all searching for that beacon of hope and we, as Christians seek to do work that becomes a light to those around

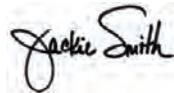
us. Conformity to the world around us, albeit comfortable, isn't what we, as Christians, are called to do—we are to Be the LIGHT.

We, at LASE, continue to strive to be the light for children and families that need specialized education so they can reach their God-given potential. We experienced a 25% increase in the number of students reached from the prior year. As the demand for our services continues to rise, we, meaning faculty/staff, volunteers, parents, and donors need to work collaboratively to be the light in these children's lives. We can't stop and be complacent—instead we must

continue to open new doors, involve more compassionate volunteers, give generously, and find community advocates to promote our unique program.

Our theme this year is also an invitation to Be The Light in the LASE ministry. Through your continued prayers, monetary gifts, acts of service and by simply asking “How can I help?” you are essential in being the light for a child in need.

In His Service,



Jackie Smith



LASE Executive Director,
Jackie Smith



Student Update

LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS, OH MY!

We enjoy catching up with LASE graduates, and hearing from Katie West (LHSSC 2014) is always a treat. She participated in a summer internship at the National Tiger Sanctuary in Branson, Missouri. She enjoyed the diversity of her duties and leading tours was her favorite, especially when she got to share her joy and enthusiasm for the animals with anecdotes about her daily interaction with them. Also, “Feeding the cats gave me a sense of accomplishment that I was doing what God has told us to do—take care of His creations! Finally, I loved giving tigers their showers, because I loved to watch them roll around playfully, sort of thanking me for keeping them cool on a hot day.” The internship has inspired Katie to transfer from Lindenwood to a different university and study zoology, so she can pursue a career that will focus on her passion of working with animals. God has great plans for you, Katie! Thank you for keeping in touch!

GRANT SUPPORT

THANK YOU *to the following*
LASE Supporters:

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



LASE Continues to Grow to Meet the Need!

LASE services are a “value-add” to any school because of unique and compassionate programming, inclusiveness, and integration and adaptability within each partner school’s culture. We welcome **Grace Chapel Lutheran School** in Bellefontaine Neighbors as a new partner school this year. Principal Eric Broffard felt that collaborating with LASE to provide Christ-centered education to students with unique learning needs fit well with their focus on God’s grace for every child.

We also welcome three new faculty members to the LASE roster this year:

- **LORI HAYDEN - Learning Center Teacher at Lutheran High School—St. Charles**
Lori is a graduate of Lutheran High North. She has an impressive background in special education, and appreciates the opportunity to be a life-long learner, always growing with her students.
- **ANNETTE MORROW - Resource Teacher for Salem Lutheran School—Affton**
Annette brings extensive experience in teaching the “whole child”, having taught academic areas, social skills and life skills.
- **SHARON SCHMIDTKE - Educational Resource Consultant for Grace Chapel Lutheran School and Salem Lutheran School in Blackjack**
Sharon has taught in a variety of settings, mentored new teachers and is an active volunteer at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.



Lori Hayden, Annette Morrow
and Sharon Schmidtke

Please join us in welcoming them to LASE!

In addition, Anna Lind (Teacher Assistant at Lutheran High School St. Charles) was installed as a called worker at a worship service at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wentzville this summer. God’s blessings, Anna!

Did you know?...

- LASE’s specialized education services impact over 1,200 students in 16 Lutheran schools.
- Our text based society is creating a greater need to develop strong reading skills in our children. Research confirms that 1 hour of intervention weekly in 1st grade replaces 4 hours of intervention weekly in 4th grade. LASE teachers are providing early identification and intervention with students in primary grades to support those students in need of additional reading assistance.
- Federal changes in the law regarding a special education diagnosis may leave many of our at-risk students unserved. LASE teachers, in collaboration with general education teachers, are identifying these students and offering assistance and support that is vital to their academic success.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October—Learning Disabilities Month

Read an article, volunteer, donate or have a discussion. Please help LASE educate others on learning disabilities!

November 10, 2018 (Saturday)

Herald the Holidays

Orlando’s Event Center in Maryland Heights. Luncheon, Silent Auction, Boutique and Style Show featuring fashions from **Leopard Boutique** and **Dillard’s**. Silent Auction: 9:30am–11:30am. Tickets: \$55 per person—Reserved tables of ten. Auction donations are appreciated.

June 24, 2019 (Monday)

Thirty-Seventh Annual Golf Tournament

Sunset Country Club, Sunset Hills, MO. 4 person scramble, lunch, Oral Auction, evening cocktails and hors d’oeuvre buffet. \$250 per player or \$1,000 per foursome. Sponsorships, volunteer & donation opportunities available.

For information or registration for events, visit Events Page or call 314.268.1234





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LASE Faculty, What do you want for your students this school year?

- *I want my students to feel like they belong at the school. I want them to build their confidence and learn to say "I can do this."*
- *I want them to hear about Jesus' love every day. I want them to know that I believe in them, care about them and want to help them.*
- *I want my students to feel like achievers. I would feel like I've done a good job if they can enter the room as confident learners.*
- *I want my students to be comfortable with who they are and have the confidence to advocate for themselves.*
- *To know they are loved, first by God, but also by their LASE teacher and others in their school community.*
- *I want my students to develop a love of learning. I want them to learn how to get along with others.*



Herald The Holidays

Make your reservations early for LASE's **Herald the Holidays** on Saturday, November 10th, at Orlando's Event & Conference Center in Maryland Heights. Indulge yourself with a day that includes a silent auction, hand-crafted Holiday Boutique, a gourmet luncheon and a style show, featuring fashions from Dillard's and Leopard Boutique. Invite your friends for a reserved table for ten!

LASE Annual Golf Tournament



LASE Student Ambassador, Keira and her siblings

The 36th LASE Golf Tournament was hot, hot, HOT! But the golfers hit their stride, even making a hole in one on a 98 degree day. The generous support from **Foam Supplies, Inc.**, our Tournament Partner, and the many sponsors, golfers, donors and volunteers, raised \$92,000 to impact our students! Special thanks to Honorary Chair, **Tom Ackermann of KMOX**, Telle Tire and Auto Services and our infamous golf committee! Get it on your calendar for Monday, June 24, 2019 to "Tee it up for the kids!"