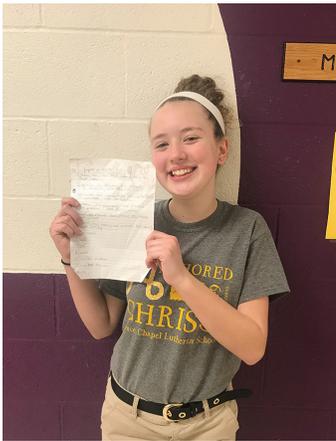


Investing in the Future!

**CELEBRATING THE SMALL STUFF
THAT'S REALLY BIG TO US!**



Brooke is a typical happy 6th grader. Like most pre-teens, she enjoys shopping and socializing with friends. You wouldn't believe that Brooke has difficulties in the classroom. She blends in, is attentive and gets along with her teachers and peers. But behind the smiling face is a child who struggles understanding new concepts, and needs

extra time to review and practice so she can be successful.

Brooke's parents recognized that Brooke was falling behind and **did the right thing**. They had her privately evaluated; and it was determined that she wouldn't score low enough to qualify for an individualized education plan (I.E.P.) through Special School District. Like a growing number of children, this doesn't preclude Brooke from needing differentiated instruction and support in the classroom. With resources becoming leaner in our Lutheran Schools, how do we begin to 'invest' in our children so they can thrive and flourish? One person knew the answer.

Understanding the need for specialized education, a generous donor made the decision to make a life-changing investment for the students at **Grace Chapel Lutheran School**. As a result, Sharon Schmidtke was hired to be a 2-day per week LASE Educational Consultant for the 2018–19 school year. The hope was that Sharon could provide resources and strategies for general classroom teachers, as well as, assist in the identification of students with potential learning disabilities.

According to Sharon Schmidtke, "God had a plan for me to be here. . . . I feel like He spent the last 30 years grooming me for this job." At two days per week, she already has 43% of the student population on her caseload and the needs are growing. Grace Chapel is hoping to add a third day next

year to meet the growing demand.

As LASE Educators, we are happy to have the flexibility to provide special education services to all children who need it—not just those that may (or may not) qualify. *"Where God guides, He provides." Isaiah 58:11*

Sharon will never forget Brooke's grin and sense of accomplishment recently when she was able to finish her work and proudly stand in line with her classmates to have her work checked by the teacher. **All were correct!**

LASE 2019 Jeremiah Award Winner

**"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I
HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES
THE LORD, "PLANS TO
PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO
HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE
YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE."
—JEREMIAH 29:11**

*Let's make sure every child of God
has the opportunity to learn and
thrive in the classroom!!* That's

the philosophy of **LASE's 2019 Jeremiah Award winner, Jackie Langley, of St. Mark's Lutheran School in Eureka.**

This LASE award honors a general education teacher who excels at meeting the unique educational needs of all students, especially those who learn differently. Jackie proactively partners daily with LASE Resource Teacher, Daviann Phye, to discuss any additional needs and reinforces special education teaching strategies in the general classroom with those students. Daviann says, "She is kind and patient. She is always willing to do whatever she needs to do to help her students. She does a great job with making modifications for those students that need it and does not need to be told by me to do so! She works one on one with them when they need it. She is an amazing teacher and a treasured co-educator. She truly does a great job with ALL of her students and I couldn't ask for a better general education teacher to work with. The students and I are all blessed to have her."



LASE Resource
Teacher, Daviann
Phye, and Jackie
Langley of St.
Mark's Lutheran
School, Eureka



A child with special education needs affects the entire family. Thank you for providing us with solution based strategies that make homework manageable and family time more enjoyable.



“...A Treasure Beyond Measure!”

God grant me the serenity to appreciate the unique gifts of my students, courage to challenge them to do their best and the wisdom to help them become all that You created them to be. Amen.

This is one of LASE Resource Teacher Sandi Loduca’s daily prayers for her students at **Green Park Lutheran School**. She firmly believes that God has a plan for EVERY child He has created.

Recently, a parent from Green Park Lutheran School, Kim Van Oosten, shared these insights regarding Sandi’s interaction with her son: “...I wanted to let you know that Mrs. Loduca is a *treasure beyond measure* at our school. She has changed the trajectory of my son’s school experience



by continuously adapting and individualizing instruction so he can reach his full potential. Thank you, Mrs. Loduca, for giving my child new-found confidence in his abilities and devising strategies to meet him where he is.

I’m also thankful for ‘our’ partnership. Mrs. Loduca has been instrumental in helping me develop new techniques at home that reiterate what he’s learned in the classroom. I have a better understanding of how he learns and as a mom, I feel more equipped to support him outside of school.

And finally, I’m thankful Mrs. Loduca is our cheerleader for those students who need a little extra love and support. Your teaching, your prayers and your service helps my son advance, not only in his educational journey, but in his relationship with Jesus. “

Thank you, Sandi, for your ministry to God’s children.

Welcome to LASE, Terry Schmidt!

THE HEART OF A VOLUNTEER IS NOT MEASURED IN SIZE, BUT BY THE DEPTH OF COMMITMENT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

God’s plan for the gifts of Terry Schmidt continues to evolve as he joins LASE Specialized Education as a new board member. Terry has a unique passion and vision for Lutheran education, and continues to find ways to share his experience and wisdom. Terry describes himself as “quite a handful” in school until he reached 7th grade, when his principal took the time to see his potential and encouraged him to become a Lutheran educator. He followed his new dream of becoming both a teacher and also a coach, from Papua, New Guinea all the way back to Edwardsville, Illinois. However, his talents and strengths as a leader led him to accept the challenge of moving into the role of principal at several schools as principal. He was then called to be Associate Director, and then Director of Schools for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Kirkwood. In Terry’s words, “For 44 years, the man who only wanted to coach and teach has been led through remarkable adventures in classrooms, gymnasiums and offices and finally into a cubicle at LCMS. God is indeed great, and to Him belongs all of the glory!” Terry retired in December 2018, but is redirecting his efforts to several impactful projects. We are blessed that God led him share his leadership and vision for the children of LASE Specialized Education.



GRANT SUPPORT

THANK YOU *to the following LASE Supporters:*

- ▶ Cardinals Care
- ▶ Concordia Outbound Ministries
- ▶ Employees Community Fund of Boeing
- ▶ Wayne C. Kaufmann Foundation
- ▶ The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- ▶ St. Louis Christmas Carols Association

Donor Spotlight

Volunteers and donors are just ordinary people with extraordinary hearts. Please join us in recognizing LASE's featured "heart-filled heroes"—Sandy and Steve Siepman. They raise the bar for living their faith and giving back to their community. The Siepman family is melded into the history of **Salem Lutheran School**



and Church in Affton, and the **Lutheran High School Association**. Sandy, a retired teacher, is fondly remembered by her many students at **Lutheran High School North**. Steve, now a retired actuary from Buck Consulting, has shared his wisdom and expertise as a long standing member of the LASE Board of Directors. In addition, Steve and Sandy are active in their support for the LASE ministry through sponsorships and serving as volunteers for LASE events. It's not unusual to find Steve in the kitchen, filling food trays to serve event guests, or Sandy greeting golfers at registration at the LASE tournament. Who else would agree annually to host committee work meetings and store 300+ silent auction items for Herald the Holidays in their home?!! The Siepman's hearts have expanded once again, as they enjoy being grandparents to twins, Izzy and Benny! God's blessings on a new generation of God's children. Thank you, Steve and Sandy for your extraordinary hearts.

2019 LASE Insight Series Workshops

Sponsored by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

TEDX SPEAKER, DR. JIM RUSSELL **THE TWICE EXCEPTIONAL LEARNER (2E)**

LASE Specialized Education believes in collaboration and empowerment for all educators to teach children to reach their highest potential. This year's Insight Series Workshop provides a great opportunity for educators to engage in a highly informative session on brain systems that are involved with cognitive and emotional challenges for students in the classroom. Expert, Dr. Jim Russell, is widely recognized for his 25+ years of experience as a renowned counselor and specialist for people with special learning needs, including the Twice Exceptional Learner (2E). Dr. Russell identifies the 2E student as someone who is both gifted and has a specific learning disability (such as Dyslexia). This workshop will empower educators with the best standards of practice for identifying students who need to be referred for reading enrichment and dealing with other brain-based systems in the classroom. Workshop dates are Monday, August 5, for PreK–3rd Grade, and Tuesday, August 6, for 4th Grade–8th Grade educators. The workshops are free to LASE Education partner schools, and with a minimal fee for other school educators. Watch for registration details coming soon on the LASE website.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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. Sponsorships, volunteer & donation opportunities available.

2019 LASE Insight Series Teacher Workshops:

The Twice Exceptional Learner (2E) Featured Speaker, Dr. Jim Russell

Immanuel Lutheran School, Olivette

August 5, 2019 (Monday)

PreK–3rd grade educators

August 6, 2019 (Tuesday)

4th–8th grade educators

November 9, 2019 (Saturday)

Herald the Holidays

Doubletree Hotel St. Louis Westport.

Luncheon, Silent Auction, Boutique and Style Show. Sponsorships, donations and volunteer opportunities available.

For information or registration for events, visit lutheranspecialized.org Events Page or call 314-268-1234.



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Herald the Holidays

LASE’s 2018 Herald the Holidays ushered in the holiday season with fashions, fellowship and fun. Sponsors for the event included: Lutheran Trust, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Concordia Seminary, Carrolton Bank, Stuart & Janet Vogelsmeier, Sharon Kaufmann, Paul and Sandy Meyer, Jim & Bette Schlie and Steve & Sandy Siepman. More than 300 guests attended the event, including LASE parents, faculty, staff, and board members. Lori Leupold, Fashion Show Director, presented a unique and entertaining holiday style show featuring fashions from Dillard’s and Leopard Boutique. LASE Specialized Education’s students were the beneficiary of \$53,000 from net proceeds, including \$25,000 from the Children’s Challenge. Guests enjoyed shopping the beautifully displayed auction items and unique crafted boutique items. LASE Student Ambassador Keira McMullan and her mother shared their touching success story resulting from their experience with LASE Specialized Education services. To all who served on the planning committee, made donations of cash and auction items, attended the event and participated in the auction and boutique, we extend our deepest gratitude for making the 2018 Herald the Holidays a great success!



Focus Group Findings

DID YOU KNOW? HERE ARE SOME INSIGHTFUL FINDINGS FROM SEVERAL FOCUS GROUPS THAT WE WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU...

LASE educators are experts. When they don’t know, they seek to find solutions outside the box.

We do not see special education as a disability.

We nurture the whole child as a team of parents, teachers and students.

The need is great and there are untapped audiences for our work.

We are truly impacting kids. We are faith-based and raising kids as Jesus tells us.

We help struggling and children ‘at-risk’ who might not, otherwise, get the services they need to be successful.