

Lutheran High School North – Collaborating to Reach a Broader Segment of Learners

Lutheran High School North (LHSN) has historically exhibited a culture of caring, inclusion and community. It is a place of ministry where every opportunity to share the love of Jesus, to the unchurched and all students, is implemented daily.

Principal, Tim Brackman, decided it was time to grow their established resource program at LHSN to empower both students and general education teachers in new ways. Tim clarified that, “My intent with our collaboration with



Students gravitate toward Michelle’s welcoming smile and favorite bible quote, Jeremiah 29:11.

LASE is to provide students and teachers with a network of support and expertise to help not just those students with diagnosed special learning needs but also offer resources for our faculty to impact struggling learners.” After **LASE Resource Teacher, Michelle Erickson**, visited LHSN, she exclaimed, “I could cry I am so happy! I want to be part of the energy and spirit here.” Her

intent is to build on the general educators’ experience and interact as an interdepartmental bridge for students and teachers. Michelle explained, “The key is to understand the



LHSN students and Michelle working on class projects

sequence of learning for that student, including where they are in the learning process and what is needed for them to learn, grow and thrive. The focus is not the content; but rather, understanding their ability level and then providing tools, accommodations and other supports so they can experience success.”

In the spirit of reaching out to more families, LHSN administrators have restructured tuition to partner with those parents who are willing to make significant sacrifices to ensure students receive a **quality, Christian education for their children in a safe and caring environment**. As the 2021–22 school year begins, these parents have already begun to show their gratitude for Michelle’s ability to listen and to explain options for implementing a specialized plan for their child’s future.

Michelle’s goal for her first year is to develop relationships with faculty, student and parents that set the foundation to move this program forward. She wants them “...to feel safe and valued for who they are and who they can become—and have fun together in the process.”

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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THANK YOU to the following LASE Supporters:

- ▶ Cardinals Care
- ▶ Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis
- ▶ Wayne C. Kaufmann Foundation
- ▶ St. Louis Christmas Carols Association



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we begin the 2021–22 school year our theme “Serving as One” is particularly relevant – “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, through many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us see them.” Romans 12:4–6

This verse is a reminder to us that we, as LASE, share our gifts of service as one body in Christ and that we continue, together, to pivot to meet the unique challenges and needs of the children we serve. This year, we have been blessed to have new partnerships including Lutheran North High School, as well as expanded programs at Zion Lutheran–Belleville, Word of Life, Salem Lutheran-Blackjack, and St. John’s-Arnold. Most of our students, like those across the country, have experienced learning loss and LASE is at the forefront working in collaboration with our partner schools to develop strategies that will enhance learning and enable our students to thrive.

This year will also mark the beginning of a comprehensive self-study to retain our National Lutheran School Association accreditation. This year-long process gives us an opportunity to evaluate our program, identify strengths and weaknesses and assess how we can be even more relevant to the children and families we serve.

As we continue “Serving as One,” to meet the unique challenges of every child with special learning needs, we sincerely thank you for your continued support and your prayers.

Jackie A. Smith, M.A.
Executive Director



LASE Executive Director,
Jackie Smith



Jackie Smith, Ex. Dir., Lance Hackney, Student Ambassador and Karen Scuito, Dir. of Fundraising & Events

All Fore One – LASE Annual Golf Benefit

The joy of community was celebrated as golfers came together for the 2021 LASE Golf Tournament in June. However, **PIVOT** remained our theme as the rain came in and the day quickly transitioned to an indoor celebration of our students. LASE Student Ambassador, Lance Hackney and his family,

shared their story expressing their gratitude for the resource of the LASE program at Lutheran High School—St. Charles. In that spirit of community, the LASE Tournament supporters generated **\$100,000** to directly impact the lives of LASE students. We could not have this level of impact for our students without our Tournament Partner, **Foam Supplies, Inc.**, our sponsors and YOU! Once again, we thank you for your flexibility, adaptability and generosity! We look forward to partnering with you again next year to “Tee it up” for the incredible kids of LASE.

Building Community...

WITH OPEN HEARTS AND OPEN MINDS TO OPEN DOORS TO LEARNING

We are pleased to welcome **Pastor Josh Hatcher, Historic Trinity Lutheran Church—Souland**, as a new board member of LASE Specialized Education. Passionate about our mission to help children with special learning needs, Josh lives his faith and advocates daily for “real people with real baggage, real problems, and real joys.”

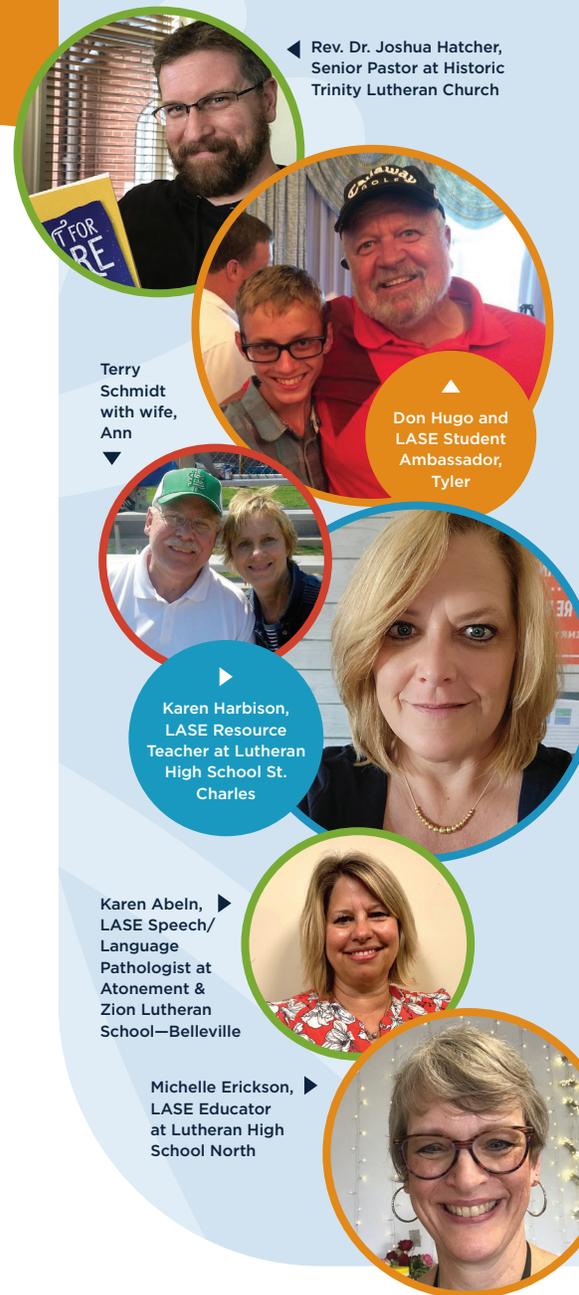
With a grateful heart, we will bid farewell to our Board President, **Don Hugo, Zion Lutheran Church**, for his 15 years of service and support for the students of LASE. Board member, **Terry Schmidt, retired Director of LCMS School Ministry**, will step up to the leadership role in January, 2022.

Welcome!

- **Lutheran High School—St. Charles: Karen Harbison** has eagerly embraced her role as Resource Teacher in the LASE program.
- **Atonement Lutheran School—Florissant and Zion Lutheran School—Belleville: Karen Abeln** is proving to be a great addition to the LASE Speech/Language team.
- **Lutheran High School North: Michelle Erickson**, LASE Resource Teacher, is already established as a part of the LHSN community.

Thank you to our grant partners who assist with funding for technology, materials and curriculum that impact our students daily:

- **Cardinals Care** – \$2400
- **Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis** – \$12,000 (2 year grant)
- **St. Louis Christmas Carols** – \$1,000



◀ Rev. Dr. Joshua Hatcher, Senior Pastor at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church

Terry Schmidt with wife, Ann

▲ Don Hugo and LASE Student Ambassador, Tyler

▶ Karen Harbison, LASE Resource Teacher at Lutheran High School St. Charles

▶ Karen Abeln, LASE Speech/Language Pathologist at Atonement & Zion Lutheran School—Belleville

▶ Michelle Erickson, LASE Educator at Lutheran High School North



Presenters: Lori Benson Adams and LASE Faculty, Mara Springer, Tara Copeland and Mary Skittino

Pivoting with Grace and Joy for our Community of Educators

"Very helpful! Loved all the practical ideas!" "It was awesome! Many great ideas! Thank you!"

August 2021. Rave reviews came in after LASE Specialized Education welcomed **500+ educators** back to the new school year by offering two interactive livestream webinars featuring relevant professional development topics addressing anxiety in the classroom and preschool child development. **Lori Benson Adams, M. Ed.**, a nationally known educational intervention specialist, public speaker, cognitive/academic coach and author, served as the lead presenter along with several LASE faculty members. Thank you to **St. John's Lutheran School in Arnold** for hosting the in-person portion of the events! Both webinars were marketed statewide and offered resources and strategies that empowered educators with critically needed resources and strategies to accurately respond to the **development of the whole child**. You can view both presentations at **LASE Specialized Education** on YouTube.





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 Join our community on Facebook

25th Anniversary Herald the Holidays

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

We need your help in sharing the tradition of Herald the Holidays with family and friends this year! Out of respect for the health and safety of our guests, we are transitioning to a virtual event with many interactive elements!



- Preview and bid on 100+ items featured in LASE's On-Line Silent Auction or purchase from the Holiday Boutique. Items will be active on line from 11/1 through 11/7.
- Virtual fashion show featuring outfits from Chico's.
- Join us for a trip down Memory Lane celebrating 25 years of celebrating together.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the LASE community for your continued support during these challenging times. Please visit <https://heraldtheholidays.maxgiving.bid> for updates and donation information.



LASE VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Phyllis Richter and Debby Decker

These two ladies are very special friends to LASE! They have been longtime volunteers, sharing their many talents in every way possible. They have served on event committees, catered and bartended for LASE events, and handcrafted hundreds of items for the Herald the Holidays Boutique. Their newest project is creating greeting cards for all occasions, and donating all proceeds to LASE. Their cards feature unique designs, and are a unique gift to every recipient. To date, they have donated over \$1,000 from their greeting card project, just through marketing to friends and family. If you are interested in more information on purchasing their cards, please contact info@lutheranspecial.org. Thank you, Friends!