

# LASE

Fall 2017

# connections

## NLSA Accreditation— Stamp of Approval

In early 2017, LASE completed an intensive self study in order to attain National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA). We were found to be compliant in all seven standards of



Pastor Joel Christiansen of Webster Gardens stopped by the LASE office with congratulations on our accreditation.

excellence and received official accreditation in May 2017. The study recognized and celebrated LASE strengths, and made recommendations for improvement in order to continue to grow and meet the growing needs of students who learn differently.

LASE would like to extend a special thank you

to our NLSA Team that guided us with the accreditation process. From left: (Al Freeman, Laura Montgomery, Mel Sandfort, Wendy Morris, Jane Limback, Terry Schmidt and Janet Profflet)



## Thank you, Wayne and Sharon Kaufmann from the Children of LASE!

Wayne and Sharon Kaufmann have been treasured friends of the children of LASE for many years. They experienced the many blessings and challenges of having a child with special needs. Wayne's daughter, Barbie, has been honored at every LASE Golf Tournament for several decades with a memorial sponsorship.

In August 2016, after a courageous battle with cancer and with Sharon at his side, Wayne passed away. This spring, LASE was the

recipient of a major gift of \$90,000 from Wayne's estate, so that the children of

LASE can continue to receive individualized instruction and hear the good news of Jesus. Additionally, we are so very excited to partner with the newly established Wayne C. Kaufmann Foundation, headed by Sharon, along with daughter, Sarah, and son, Kevin to further our impact to future generations. We are humbled and proud of Wayne's commitment to our ministry.



Thank you to Wayne and Sharon Kaufmann!

## 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.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## From the Executive Director

### THE LORD IS MY ROCK, MY FORTRESS AND MY DELIVERER—PSALM 18:2

As we begin the 17–18 school year, this verse reminds us that God is our strength, our foundation, and our protector. As we strive to reach and have greater impact on the children and families we serve, it's a blessing to have this reminder that HE is in control and has been for over 60 years!

We have many things to be thankful for: our volunteers/donors who provide much needed support, amazing faculty/staff that lend their expertise and compassion every day, our partner schools that work in collaboration with us to give children with learning challenges the tools they need to be successful, and the Lutheran community that provides an inner circle of acceptance and dedication to mission.

In August, LASE began our strategic planning process. Our objective is to define a clear, strategic, and evolutionary roadmap for the next 3–5 years. Your input will be paramount in helping us define this direction. As some of our Lutheran schools are met with enrollment challenges and budgetary restraints, while continuously trying to stay ahead of educational trends and technology, we find ourselves in a unique conundrum. How can we, as LASE, be a better provider, supporter, educator and collaborator to our schools?

Here are ways you can help us this year with this important process:

- a. Offer your wisdom by participating in a community survey (send us your email address to [info@lutheranspecial.org](mailto:info@lutheranspecial.org)).
- b. Get involved. We are always looking for dedicated volunteers to help us with our events, outreach, lending expertise on our board or advisory council, etc.
- c. Give gifts of time and treasure.
- d. Join our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/lutheranspecial>
- e. Pray for us as we begin a new chapter.

We are excited for all that God will continue to do as we work together to reach and have greater impact for children with learning disabilities. Thank you for your continued prayers and partnership that is so vital to sustaining our ministry.

In His Service,  
Jackie



LASE Executive Director,  
Jackie Smith



Faculty bonded with a Psalm 18:2 rock painting project at our August meeting. They plan to keep the LASE theme visible on their classroom desks.

## School Highlights

### LASE IS GROWING TO REACH THE NEED!!

We are excited to welcome St. John's Lutheran School, Arnold, and Messiah Lutheran School, Weldon Spring, to the LASE family for the 2017–18 school year.

In order to continue to thrive, David Florine, St. John's Principal, and the school board contacted LASE to provide specialized education services for those children struggling

## 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

academically and/or socially. “Some children need additional help in reading or math, and we are so very pleased that LASE is here to work in partnership with teachers and parents to enable every child to experience success.”



David Florine and St. John's Faculty

Joanie Smith, Principal at Messiah-Weldon Spring, considered partnering with LASE as a natural enhancement to their school philosophy of *appreciating the uniqueness of every student and teacher*. “We felt it was a benefit to all of our students and families to have special education services in our school.” LASE now provides educational resource strategies for their students at Messiah that need additional or individualized instruction within a nurturing, Christian environment.

LASE Resource Teacher and Educational Consultant, Mara Springer, is leading both new programs.

Blessings on your year, Mara!

LASE also **expanded programming** at Lutheran High School, St. Charles, Immanuel Lutheran School in Wentzville, Child of God Lutheran School in St. Peters and Salem Lutheran School in Florissant.

Please join us in welcoming our new additions to the LASE faculty: Nancy Bock at Salem Lutheran School in Affton, Laura Stolin, Immanuel Lutheran School in Wentzville, and Erin Diani-O'Day and Anna Lind, Lutheran High School in St. Charles.



LASE teacher, Mara Springer

Welcome Nancy Bock, Salem Lutheran in Affton and Laura Stolin, Immanuel Lutheran School in Wentzville!



Sue Klobnak, Erin Diani-O'Day and Anna Lind of LHSSC are happy with their gift of “Welcome Back” tumblers donated by Foam Supplies, Inc., LASE's Golf Tournament Partner. Thank you!



## Where Are They Now?

School life was not fun for James Strahm during his early elementary years. He struggled with assignments and was unable to read until he started the third grade. James flourished under the direction of Mrs. Sandi Loduca in the LASE Resource Room and the general education teachers

James and his twin brother, Jeffrey, remain competitive with their grades in the engineering program at Rolla.



at Green Park Lutheran School. Today he is a second year college student at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. His parents, Cheryl and Mark, are so proud that James chose to attend an engineering school and was not only accepted, but is maintaining a 3.0 grade point average. Keep up the great work, James!

## LASE 2017 Insight Series Workshops

The first week of August brought 200+ general education teachers together to attend LASE's 2017 Insight Series Workshops hosted by Zion Lutheran School. Special thanks to Principal Marc Debrick and Assistant Principal Brendan Marolf for their collaboration with LASE to bring three professional development workshops for educators in our Lutheran schools.

**Dr. BJ Weimer**, Director of Academics at Kirk Day School, presented an interactive workshop on Phonics and Phonology targeting specific strategies for K-4th grade students. **Dr. Joe Sencibaugh**, Associate Professor at Webster University facilitated a session dedicated to middle school teachers and another for secondary school educators working with struggling learners. Dr. Weimer's and Dr. Sencibaugh's presentations were the perfect start to a new school year! Thank you for helping providing essential tools, strategies, and other proven techniques to impact God's children.

## LASE Annual Golf Tournament

Thanks to everyone who helped us *Tee it up for the Kids of LASE* at the 35th Annual LASE Golf Tournament held at Sunset Country Club on June 19th. Jonah Glessner, LASE Student Ambassador from Green Park Lutheran School, charmed the golfers with his great personality, as he welcomed them with a big "THANKS!"

The superstars of LASE: Jonah Glessner and LASE Golf Committee members.



for supporting the students of LASE. This tournament raised \$90,000 as

a result of the generous support from **Foam Supplies, Inc.**, our tournament partner, and the many sponsors, golfers, donors and volunteers who believe in the potential of children with learning differences. Honorary Chair, Tom Ackermann of KMOX, served as an incredible ambassador for our kids with special education needs. We, at LASE, acknowledge with grateful hearts the strong commitment from our golf committee. Members include: Committee Co-Chair, Dean Eggerding and Tom Dankenbring, and members—Carl Winters, Paul Kowert, Dave Drewes, and Dave Kuenzel. We had a combination of ideal weather and generous support, making it a perfect day to celebrate and support the children of LASE.



3558 S. Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118

 Join our community on Facebook

## 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 11, 2017 (Saturday)

#### Herald the Holidays

Orlando's Event Center in Maryland Heights Luncheon, Silent Auction, Boutique and Style Show Featuring Fashions from Mix & Match and Soft Surroundings. Silent Auction: 9:30am–11:30am Tickets: \$55 per person—Reserved tables of ten

### June 18, 2018 (Monday)

#### Thirty-Sixth Annual Golf Tournament

Sunset Country Club, Sunset Hills, MO. 4 person scramble, lunch, silent and oral auctions, evening cocktails and hors d'oeuvre buffet. Registration: \$225 per person. Sponsorship, volunteer & donation opportunities available. Mega Tickets, Mulligans, Skins and Hole Contests

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

## Herald the Holidays

### GET INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON!

The many elves of LASE are busy planning our upcoming Herald the Holidays event scheduled for Saturday, November 11th, at Orlando's Event and Conference Center in Maryland Heights. Indulge yourself with a day that includes a silent auction of quality items, a holiday boutique, delicious luncheon and style show featuring fashions from Soft Surroundings and Mix & Match.

Mix & Match, featured on KSDK Show Me St. Louis, is a locally based boutique that also offers trunk shows and styling services. Their goal is to help women find fashionable, comfortable, affordable everyday clothes that mix and match with their current wardrobe.

Soft Surroundings offers stylish, luxurious & comfortable women's clothes for every size in their Brentwood store or website. Their philosophy is that by putting yourself first, you can take better care of friends, family and community to live a happier, more fulfilling life.

We are looking forward to a beautiful style show, luscious lunch and shopping galore! Reserve your table on LASE's registration website: [lutheranspecial.educationreg.org/registration](http://lutheranspecial.educationreg.org/registration). It's a great way to kick off your holiday spirit and Christmas shopping. Bring your friends! See you on November 11th!