

LASE

connections

Spring 2023



LASE Speech/Language Therapist, Dawn Praechter, working with students from Immanuel Olivette on a speech game that focuses on the sounds that they need to work on.

LWML Grants LASE \$20,000!

We are so blessed to have been chosen as a recipient of a 2 year grant from Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). This impactful grant will enable LASE to administer Speech/Language services to early childhood students at no cost to parents or schools. Early identification is crucial to providing early intervention strategies to our youngest learners so they can Hear, Understand and Speak the Love of Jesus!



(pictured from left: LWML representatives Donna Hecht, Marian Hoehner, and LASE Executive Director, Jackie Smith)

LASE Celebrates National Lutheran Schools Week 2023

WE ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK!



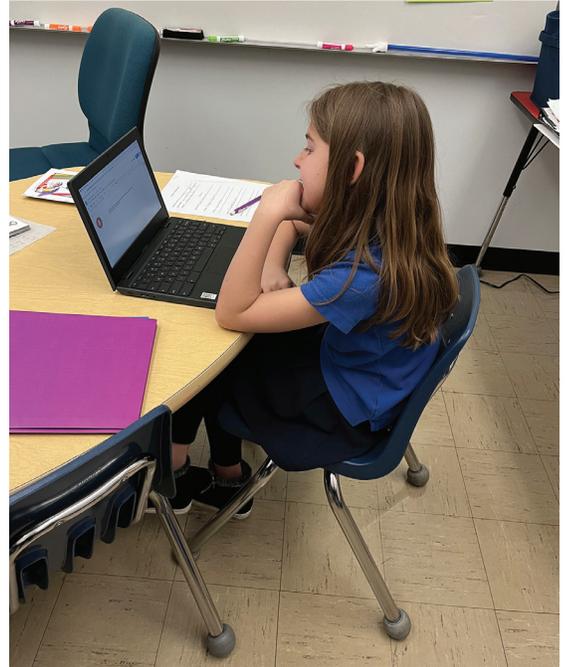
At Word of Life: LASE Educator, Leslie Vangel, shares some fun happenings in her classroom during National Lutheran Schools Week. Each day had a theme and Lila chose her favorite book character from Dr. Seuss, Thing 1 and Thing 2! Pictured above: Word of Life Lutheran School 8th grader Lila and her aid, Katlyne.



At Immanuel Lutheran School, St. Charles: LASE Educator, Kelley Malady, captured these four 1st grade friends wearing their jerseys for "Favorite Sports Day." Pictured from left to right, Laird, Walter, Luke, and Sawyer.

Teaching with Technology

LASE Educator, Mara Springer, enjoys integrating technology into learning in her resource room at St. John's Lutheran in Arnold. "Students who struggle to read and write often are challenged to get their stories on paper. They have big ideas, but what they write is short and simple because it takes so long and they often can't spell the big words they want to use. Using voice to type technology, they can write longer stories and paragraphs that look more like the ones their peers write without having to dictate it to an adult. It makes them feel independent and proud of themselves" she says. Here, you'll



find third graders Abigail and Charlie using the voice typing tool on their Chromebooks to write stories. What a fun and interactive method to be creative and use their composition knowledge in a way that feels approachable! Being able to access and utilize the most up-to-date technology is crucial to ensure our LASE learners can maintain the pace of their peers.



Pictured: Charlie (top right) and Abigail (bottom left)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

-Ephesians 2:10



Retirement of Our LASE Rock Stars (Follow-Up)

We've been humbly inundated with questions, stories, and well-wishes after our last publication of the newsletter regarding retirements of Sandi Loduca, Karen Scuito, and Diane Stout. If you would like to remember them by sharing a story or making a tribute gift in honor of their 20+ years of service to LASE, please email us at info@lutheranspeciald.org or visit our website at <https://lutheranspeciald.org/donate>.

GRANT SUPPORT

THANK YOU to the following LASE Supporters:

- ▶ Cardinals Care
- ▶ Employees Community Fund of Boeing
- ▶ Wayne C. Kaufmann Foundation
- ▶ Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
- ▶ Lutheran Women's Missionary League
- ▶ St. Louis Christmas Carols Association

Annual Report

Dear Friends,

The theme for the **2021-22** school year was: Serving as One—“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.” Romans 12:4-6. This is wonderful scripture to remind us that we depend on the many gifts of our community to impact children with special learning needs. We depend on the generosity of many to support the work we do. Educators, administrators, parents, volunteers, donors and the Lutheran community in general come together to help our students thrive.

In 2021-2022, the LASE program focused on developing strategies to support pandemic related learning recovery. Not only were we supporting those students with special education needs, but also supporting educators and students within the general education setting. Most students experienced learning loss primarily in the areas of math and reading while others were significantly impacted in their social/emotional development. We continue to address these issues as things begin to improve and rebound.

In fundraising, our Herald the Holidays event celebrated 25 years of supporting God’s children and had to remain

an interactive virtual event.

We raised over \$40,000 to meet the ongoing needs of our educators and students. In the summer of 2022, the LASE Golf Tournament, which was conducted in person, exceeded their goal and raised over \$120,000! This is such a wonderful testament to the generous community of donors that help our students thrive!



As you will see from our financials, we remain in sound financial condition but, like 2020-21, we show a shortfall between our total expenses in excess of revenue. As health insurance, salaries and other administrative expenses increase, we continue to develop new strategies to help narrow this gap to offset the deficit. We continue to be blessed with income generated from endowment funds restricted for student & school scholarships. This provided over \$96,000 in student and school scholarships for the 2021-22 school year.

The 2022-23 financials will look different next year as you will see a significant investment in building capacity for future growth, programmatic excellence, development, and outreach. We are very excited to share this next chapter with you!

Thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to help change the lives of children with special learning needs. Together, we will continue to ‘serve as one’ so students will thrive and reach their God-given potential.

In His Service,



Jackie A. Smith, M.A.
Executive Director

By the numbers

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR:

1,115 Children Directly Impacted by LASE Services

18 Lutheran schools that partner with LASE

\$106,087 in Scholarships/Grants Awarded

180 Lutheran School Educators attended the LASE Insight Series Workshop.

1 in 10 children have a learning disability.

10 out of 10 children are loved by God.

LASE LAUNCHES A NEW MISSION STATEMENT!

Based on our new strategic plan, LASE has created a new mission statement:

LASE builds life-changing success for students, schools and communities through Christ-centered innovative specialized education.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diana Meers, *Chair*
 Terry Schmidt, *Vice-Chair*
 Bill Hauk, *Treasurer*
 Michele Berra
 Reverend Dr. Josh Hatcher
 Bette Schlie
 Sue Torbeck

Jackie Smith
Executive Director
 Karen Wittmayer
Program Director
 Karen Scuito
Director of Fundraising & Events

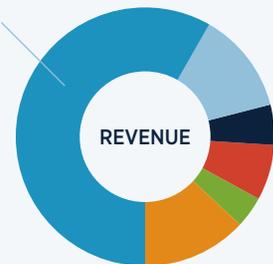


LASE Revenue and Expenses

FISCAL YEAR AUGUST 1, 2021 TO JULY 31, 2022

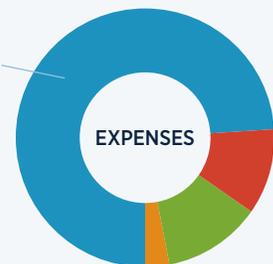
REVENUE

Contract and School Tuition	\$ 953,174	58%
Fundraising – Events	206,793	13%
Donations	82,594	5%
Grants	114,251	7%
Interest and Dividends	60,975	4%
Loan Forgiveness	215,080	13%
Other	325	0%
Total Revenue	\$1,633,192	



EXPENSES

Educational	\$1,065,298	74%
Management and General	157,208	11%
Development	171,949	12%
Tuition Assistance	42,640	3%
Total Expenses	\$1,437,095	



TOTAL OPERATING GAIN (LOSS) \$196,097

NET GAIN ON INVESTMENTS \$(325,129)

INCREASE/DECREASE IN NET ASSETS \$(129,032)

LASE Program Services Data

- 226 Direct Resource Services
- 157 Indirect Resource Services (Consultations, Observations & Monitoring)
- 347 Educational Resource Consultant Services
- 281 Speech and Language Screening and/or Testing
- 79 Speech and Language Direct Services
- 25 Early Childhood Screenings

1,115 Students Directly Impacted By Your Generosity

Scholarships/Grants for Special Education

\$23,000

Elementary Scholarships

\$21,080

High School Scholarships

\$62,007

Grant Support to Lutheran Schools

\$106,087

Total Scholarships/Grants Awarded 2021-22

LASE PARTNER SCHOOLS
 2021-2022

Atonement
 CCLS Early Childhood Center
 Child of God
 Grace Chapel

Green Park
 Immanuel, Olivette
 Immanuel, St. Charles
 Immanuel, Wentzville

Lutheran High School North
 Lutheran High, St. Charles
 Messiah Lutheran School—
 Weldon Spring

LASE Donors, Sponsors and Event Supporters: Fiscal Year August 1, 2021–July 31, 2022

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

Brad and Melanie Acker

Joyce Adams

Jan Agee

Ronald and Karen Allman

American Legion Post 299

Pat Anghilante

Kristi Arth

Baisch and Skinner, Inc.

Sharon Baldassare

Michelle Balog

Mark and Kathy Baum

Behr, McCarter, Potter, Neely &
Hyde PC

Keith Beier

Adam and Carolyn Betz

Joyce Binder

Brett and Barbara Boyle

Aaron and Kimberly Boyll

Kimberly Braddy

Suzanne Braun

Sharon Brinkman

Linda Burgdorf

Mark Cannon

Cardinals Care

Beverly Caspersen

Charities Foundation of America

Christ Community Lutheran
School

Joel and Mary Christiansen

Shirley M Cissell

Concordia Seminary

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Paul and Carolyn Crisler

James and Vickie Dankenbring

Tom and Anna Dankenbring

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Roger Dierberg

Travis and Christy Dillon

Donna Donovan

David and Rene' Drewes

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Herbert and Jackie Eggerding

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Boeing

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Joyce Hennen

Joseph Herman

Elmer and Mildred Herring

Karl Hertel

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Matt Hoehner

Ed and Lisa Holderle, III

Steve and Jean Holthe

Betty Horrell

Linda Horton

Tom Hough

DJ Hrebec

Wayne and Crystal Huebner

Don and Cherie Hugo

Dennis and Julia Hundman

Tom and Chris James

Jarrell Mechanical Contractors

David Jockenhoefer

Debbie Kasten

Wayne C. Kaufmann Foundation

Sharon Kaufmann

Michael and Patricia Keen

Karen Keske

Geri Kidd

Our Savior, Fenton
St. John's, Arnold
Salem, Afton
Salem, Black Jack

Word of Life
Zion, St. Charles
Zion Lutheran School,
Belleville

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.

Jack Killoren	Robert and Esther Negwer	Carolyn Schlimpert	Dianne Thies
Kinninger Family	Teresa Nelson	James and Sherry Schmid	Jim Thoenen
Betty Kling	Robert and Ida Neumann	Bonnie Schmidt	Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Grace Koewing	Clarence and Joan Newberry, Jr.	Terry and Ann Schmidt	Stephen and Christine
Paul and Laura Kowert	Gary and Christine Nickelson	Sharon Schmidtke	Tirmenstein
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Karen Kurtz	Carla O'Brien	Ted Schuessler	Stephanie Torbeck
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Matthew and Diane Lewis	Lenora Parker	Angela Scoby	Mike and Emilie Vincent
Jose and Carol Lima	Aaron and Jennifer Pawlitz	Karen Scuito	Stuart and Janet Vogelsmeier
Joseph and Sandra Loduca	Peace Lutheran Men's Club	Tom and Teresa Seiler	George Walker
Norb and Margot Loebis	Judy Pfeiffer	Richard G. and Carolyn R. Sellke	David Wall
Andrea Lohman	Keith and Patricia Pike	Al Senske	James Wall
Mike Louis	Jerry and Judy Potthoff	Angela Shirley	Rick and Diane Wall
Lutheran Church Extension Fund	Dave and Kerri Powers	Robert A. Shively	Linda Weaver
Lutheran Trust	Dawn Praechter	Show Me Corvair Club	Barbara Webb
Carolyn MacLean	William and Janet Profilet	Stephen and Sandra Siepman	Woody Weingandt
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James and Janey Menner	Jack Reiner	Steve Spoerle	Kathleen Wenger
George Mertz	Mary Reinhardt	Hans and Marie Springer	LeRoy and Jane Wilke
Paul and Sandra Meyer	Phyllis Richter	Matthew and Mara Springer	Nora Witbrodt
Roland and Marilyn Meyer	Doris Rittmann	Vera Springer	Phyllis Witbrodt
Paul and Gwen Middeke	J.P. Roberts	St. Louis Christmas Carolers Association	Garland and Marcia Wittmayer
Donald and Wilma Miesner	Ronald and Laura Robertson	Kermit and Karen Starnes	Karen and John Wittmayer
Jane Mihalevich	Elva Ross	David and Cindy Steinbruegge	Wilmar and Louise Woelzlein
Milton Gaebler Charitable Foundation	Henry Rowold	Joseph J. and Donna Steiner	Jocelyn Wofford
Laura Montgomery	Nathan Ruback	Stinson LLP	Al and Debbie Wolf
The Moran Company	Ruez Law Firm, LLC	Diane Stout	Women of Marco Lutheran Church
Annette Morrow	Rick and Judy Ruf	Stratman Family	Karl and Lorena Ziegler
Rick and Kathleen Mueller	Roger Ruff	Debra Tavra	Lois D. Ziegler
Joyce Muhlhauser	Jim and Donna Russell	Ryan and Rachel Taube	Zion Lutheran School
Julie Muhlhauser	Carl and Joyce Sattovia	Tim and Sandi Taube	
Dave and Jane Muzik	Carl Saubert and Muriel Perillat	Aaron and Laura Telle	
Jim and Nancy Myers	Allen and Diane Schade	Gail Telle	
National Sales Company	James and Bette Schlie	Vicki Theby	

Events

27th Annual Herald the Holidays presents a **NEW THEME!** *Herald the Holidays: A Brunch and Bags Benefit*



This past year, the festive atmosphere put everyone in the holiday spirit as groups of friends and family enjoyed being together again to celebrate the students of LASE. Support from sponsors, donors and guests was record breaking, netting \$72,000 in funding to impact the lives of the children who are challenged by learning. Guests shopped



at the Holiday Boutique, placed their bids at the silent auction, enjoyed the luncheon and were wowed by the unique style show, featuring fashions from Camille La Vie and Dillard's. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, November 4, 2023 for the **Bags and Brunch** event.

SAVE THE DATE!

LASE's 40th Annual Golf Tournament—please note the new date!

Monday, July 17, 2023
at Sunset Country Club



New & Noteworthy!

LASE would like to welcome the following individuals to our main office staff: Joe Gogel, Business Manager; Amanda Ermer, Administrative Assistant; Erin Pohl, Development Manager. We are very excited for them to share their levels of skill and expertise to take LASE to the next level!

Of course, we cannot welcome new staff without saying a heartfelt goodbye to our retirees, Karen Scuito and Diane Stout. Without you, we would not have come nearly as far. Endless gratitude to you for everything you've done.



Amanda Ermer
Administrative Assistant



Joe Gogel
Business Manager



Erin Pohl
Development Manager





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 Join our community on Facebook

LASE's Strategic Plan

LASE faculty, staff, and board of directors have been working hard to create objectives and priorities for the next 3 years. The top key initiatives are as follows:

- **Program** – continue to develop programmatic excellence in specialized education, as well as implement an expansion plan
- **Board Development** – increase leadership expertise to further the LASE mission
- **Fundraising** – build and implement a diversified fundraising program to support outreach, growth and student impact
- **Operations** – build internal capacity to support, sustain and grow the LASE ministry

We are so excited to share this journey with you and we would love to know: are you that person to help take LASE to the next level? Please let us know by sending an email to info@lutherspecial.org.

The Kids Are Calling! Will You Answer?

**LASE NEEDS YOUR HELP TO KEEP GOING.
THERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:**

- LASE now has monthly giving! Show your dedication to specialized education for kids by signing up to auto-give each month at www.lutherspecial.org/donate
- We are currently seeking passionate and enthusiastic volunteers for a multitude of areas from donating an item for our various silent auctions, to working the event and everything in between. Please fill out our volunteer survey by going to <https://bit.ly/LASEVolunteer> or scanning the QR code here:

