

## LESA Students "Unify"

Continued from front page

like [Child of God Lutheran](#) in St. Peters, also supported Operation Christmas Child, either through their congregations or schools. [St. Paul's Lutheran](#) in Des Peres collected school supplies for Iraqi school children after receiving a visit from a student's father who is serving in Iraq. [Good Shepherd Lutheran](#) in Collinsville sent chapel offerings to National Lutheran Schools Week in Wittenberg, Germany and a Luther-

an early childhood center in Pacific, WA. [Zion Lutheran](#) in St. Charles contributed to Lutheran Hour Ministries' Global Care Packages project. [Bethel Lutheran](#) in University City, [Trinity Lutheran](#) in St. Charles and [Grace Chapel Lutheran](#) in Bellefontaine Neighbors continued their tradition of "adopting" families in need. [Zion Lutheran](#) in Bethalto, [Hope Lutheran](#) in St. Ann and [St. Mark's Lutheran](#) in Eureka collected winter food and "warm-up" items for Otis Woodard's ministry in north St. Louis. St. Mark's is also leading

a drive to convince local hunters to donate meat to Woodard's ministry.

In the spring, LESA students will "unify" again for LESA's first-ever Unified Earth Day Project – Lutheran Schools Celebrate God's Earth. The project, which coincides with the celebration of Earth Day on April 22, draws inspiration from Genesis 2:15, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."



# news & notes

Spring — 2009

## School Notes — What LESA member schools are doing — and learning



Students at [Trinity Lutheran](#) in St. Charles display the American flag they sent to Trinity graduate and U.S. Army Major Roger Knedel in the Middle East. In return, Major Knedel returned the flag with a certificate stating "that this American flag was flown for Trinity Lutheran School over Afghanistan on a combat mission in an F-15E "Strike Eagle" in support of Operation Enduring Freedom" on Sept. 23, 2008.



Seventh-graders at [St. John's Lutheran](#) in Red Bud enjoy a visit from former student Nancy Langreher, a medical technologist at Red Bud Regional Hospital.

### LESA Schools Sweep LSAM Volleyball Tournament

Congratulations to four LESA schools for taking the top spots in the LSAM State Volleyball Tournament in November. [Word of Life](#) in south St. Louis took first, followed by [St. Paul's-Des Peres](#), [Immanuel-St. Charles](#) and [Zion-St. Charles](#). Immanuel-St. Charles was also recognized for best sportsmanship.

### National Lutheran Schools Week

LESA students are already making plans for National Lutheran Schools Week, March 1-7, 2009. Look for special chapel collections, breakfast and lunch events for parents and grandparents, community outreach efforts, and special worship services. The theme of this year's week is "Lutheran Schools: Securing Each Child's Future-For Eternity" (John 3:16).

### "After-School Program" Grant Renewed

Three LESA schools are enjoying another year of exciting after-school programs, thanks to the Nonpublic After-School Program Grant. The grant, which helps private schools improve their after-care programs, was recently extended for a second year for [River Roads Lutheran](#) in north St. Louis and [King of Glory Lutheran](#) and [Hope Lutheran](#) in south St. Louis. The schools can use the money to fund activities, staff development and after-care scholarships. The grant is funded through an Investment Partnership that includes the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis, the St. Louis Mental Health Board, Incarnate Word Foundation, and the After-School for All Program.

**Seven Lutheran South students** have been named 2009 National Merit Scholars. Seniors Dean Odegard and Rebecca Reed were named Semifinalists for their performances on the PSAT/NMSQT assessment, which they took last October as juniors. Seniors Rick Anderson, Tim Grev, Joanna Ryherd, Alica Tape, and Lisa Wilke were recognized as Commended Students for scoring in the top 3 percent of all the 1.4 million students who took the PSAT.

## LESA President Chuck Conover Celebrates "Semi" Retirement



Congratulations to Chuck Conover on his decision to "semi" retire from his busy role as LESA's founding President and Chief Executive Officer. Chuck will continue working part-time in the same capacity, offering guidance and leadership in our mission to provide quality, Christian education to nearly 8,000 St. Louis area children.

Chuck's 41 year Lutheran School ministry has always been in St. Louis. He has served in the capacity of teacher, athletic director and principal. In 2004, Chuck was called to help found the Lutheran Elementary School Association. His passion for nurturing children in the Word of God through Lutheran schools is evident in the energy and enthusiasm he uses in making certain financial aid and a quality learning environment are available to St. Louis metro children.

Today, LESA represents 37 elementary schools, four high schools and numerous agencies in the St. Louis Metro Area. We at LESA praise God for Chuck's 41 years of faithful service to the Lutheran education ministry and look forward to his continued partnership with LESA.

## LESA Students "Unify" to Help Children in Need

When [Messiah Lutheran School](#) in St. Charles decided to participate in LESA's annual Unified Giving Project, Operation Christmas Child, they started with an ambitious goal: To fill as many shoeboxes as possible with gifts for children living in desperate circumstances around the world. They never imagined they would soon dedicate over 200 boxes - complete with witness cards and personal letters - to create a special Christmas for children in need.

That same spirit of giving is soaring through other LESA schools in the St. Louis Metro Area. Some,



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## LESA School, Principal Earn National Recognition



[St. John Lutheran](#) in Ellisville recently received one of the highest honors ever bestowed on a school: the prestigious No Child Left Behind — Blue Ribbon School award from

the U.S. Department of Education. Nationwide, only 3.9 percent of all eligible schools ever achieve "Blue Ribbon" status.

In October, the Lutheran Education Association honored Janet Leet, principal of [Christ Community Lutheran School's](#) elementary campus in Webster Groves, as their 2008 Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Administrator.

Congratulations to St. John and CCLS for showing the nation why Lutheran schools are an exceptional place to learn and grow.

**Save the Date — Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009**  
**All LESA Open House**

Call (314) 268-1520 or visit [www.metrolutheranschools.org](http://www.metrolutheranschools.org)

For more information, visit [www.metrolutheranschools.org](http://www.metrolutheranschools.org)

# The Teachers' Turn to Learn

## LESA Teachers Enjoy Day of Professional Development

LESA teachers from all over the St. Louis Metro Area gathered Friday, Oct. 10 at **Zion Lutheran** in St. Charles for a fun and rewarding day of professional development. More than 430 teachers attended the day-long learning event, which began with an inspiring opening worship led by Pastor Mark Rouland of Zion Lutheran Church. After the service, teachers were invited to choose from more than 20 workshop topics, which included "reaching and teaching" struggling students, improving parent-teacher communica-

Ready for his Close Up!  
*Teacher Tom Ernst of St. Paul's Lutheran in Des Peres scopes out a plant specimen during LESA's fall in-service event.*



tion and tips for recruiting and retaining students. The teachers also enjoyed hands-on presentations from The Magic House and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

LESA teachers meet twice a year to polish their skills through professional development. "Our teachers love to learn as much as they love to teach," said Deb Schmich, Director, LESA's Educational Administrators Division/Student Services. "This gives them a chance to do that in a fun, creative setting."



Stack 'Em Up!  
*Carol Rudsinski, from Salem Lutheran in Affton, tries her hand at speed stacking during a P.E. workshop.*

## Colonial Williamsburg Brings History to Life for Students, Teachers

Two LESA teachers will experience "living history" this summer when they travel to Virginia to attend the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute. Jeanine Consolino of **Hope Lutheran** in south St. Louis and Ed Cook of **Trinity Lutheran** in Edwardsville will join teachers from all over the country to learn about the daily life of eighteenth century Virginia - including the economic and social events that led to the American Revolution.

LESA's participation is made possible through a grant from Bob and Lori Duesenberg, two long-time Lutheran school supporters who developed an enthusiasm for Colonial Williamsburg while living in Virginia. The goal of the grant - and the Institute - is to help teachers bring history to life for their students. "Some of those students...will retain that excitement [throughout] their



*Past participant Carol Brannan, Christ Community Lutheran, poses with a historic re-enactor at Colonial Williamsburg.*

lives," said Bob, who attended St. Luke's Lutheran and Hope Lutheran in south St. Louis as a child. The Duesenberg's children also attended Lutheran schools in St. Louis.

The grant also invites LESA schools to use the Colonial Williamsburg Electronic Field Trip Series, an interactive, web-based program that allows LESA students to watch historical reenactments and then participate in lessons web-cast from Colonial Williamsburg. Seventeen LESA schools are participating in the series this year including **Atonement Lutheran** in Florissant, **Salem Lutheran** in Florissant and **Immanuel Lutheran** in Washington.

Bob Duesenberg says he hopes the programs help LESA students gain a better understanding of their democracy. After all, "Responsible citizenship is informed citizenship."

A Night for Kids™

6th Annual Building Blocks Scholarship Fund Dinner/Auction

Friday, April 17, 2009  
5:00 - 10:00 p.m.

The Royale Orleans  
2801 Telegraph Road  
St. Louis, MO 63125

Tickets - \$50 per person  
(Tables of 8)

For tickets, contact:  
Melissa Maxfield  
314-268-1520  
[mmaxfield@lesastl.org](mailto:mmaxfield@lesastl.org)

## Building Blocks Scholarship Fund – A "Miracle" to Many

Your support of LESA's Building Blocks Scholarship Fund has been a "miracle" to 3,923 Lutheran school students who have received more than \$2.9 million in need-based tuition scholarships over the past five years. Today, one out of every six students in our schools receives financial assistance through a Building Blocks' program.

God has richly blessed the Building Blocks' ministry, and His guidance is evidenced by one recipient family: "Finding out about Building Blocks Scholarship Fund was a bit of a miracle I'd like to share with you. I had been praying about how to continue to afford my son's schooling. After seeing a bumper sticker on a car for JOY FM, I tuned in one day. I heard a commercial about Lutheran elementary schools in St. Louis and how Building Blocks provides financial assistance to students. I looked up the LESA web site and got the application form turned in, just in the nick of time. And here we are! You are a miracle answer to prayer. There are just too many timely "coincidences" to say otherwise. So thank you for helping me provide my child with the Christian base that is so imperative in today's world. You are appreciated!!!"

Your partnership is even more important to the children we serve as the number of scholarship applications increase each year. With your help and God's blessing, we know we can help even more children in the future.

## High School Students Put "Faith into Action"

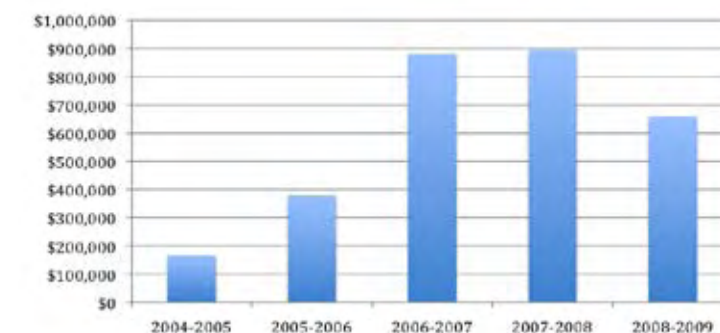


In October, about 650 students and faculty at **Lutheran High North** (photo, left) and **Lutheran High South** participated in their schools' "Faith in Action" days, which connect students

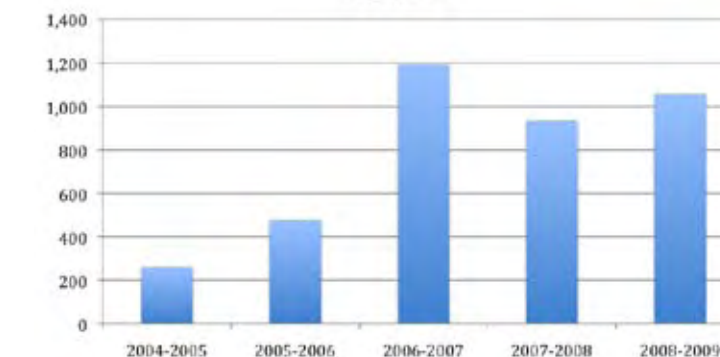
with local service organizations, such as the Salvation Army, Operation Food Search, the Judevine Center, and Orphan Grain Train. In August, students at **Lutheran High St. Charles** (photo, below) stopped to pray before volunteering at a Thrivent-sponsored "Habitat for Humanity" work site in Wentzville. The school's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter also pitched in by helping the city of St. Peter's Operation Clean Stream during National Make a Difference Day.



Scholarship Dollars Awarded



Number of Students Served with a Building Blocks Scholarship



*Building Blocks Scholarship Fund's goal is to make Lutheran elementary school education available to every child, regardless of family financial circumstances.*