



Lutheran Education Association

linking, equipping, and affirming educators in Lutheran ministries

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Amy Neumann Named LEA 2009 Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher

Amy Neumann, preschool teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School in Mount Prospect, Illinois, is the 2009 Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher. She teaches full-day preschool and is involved with St. Paul's family ministry and care committee. She teaches in the Early Childhood Department at Triton College in River Grove, Illinois.

Ms. Neumann earned both a B.A. and an M.A. in early childhood education from Concordia University Chicago. Prior to her ministry at St. Paul, Ms. Neumann taught at Triton College in River Grove, Illinois, and Concordia University Chicago, serving as interim director for Concordia Early Childhood Center in 1999. She also was director and teacher at The Ark: Early Christian School in Highland Park, Illinois.

Supporting her nomination, a colleague listed "The Top 10 Reasons Amy is an LEA Distinguished Early Childhood Teacher." Among those reasons are dedication to "... being professional, thorough, innovative, fun, engaging, and captivating when teaching." Also, "She has developed many new programs for the churches and schools she has served, such as initiating full-day preschool, tote bags for children to use during church, parent-toddler classes ..." and other children's ministry programs and activities.

Ms. Neumann, speaking of her greatest joys in ministry, says, "Having children run into the classroom eager to explore and learn is so rewarding." About the challenges she faces, Ms. Neumann says, "I find that communicating the value of developmentally appropriate practices to parents and colleagues is often challenging. Children are expected to be taught school academics at an earlier age... that I believe to be inappropriate for younger children."

Amy Neumann was selected to receive this award by LEA's Early Childhood Network leadership team and LEA staff.

Award standards are available at <http://www.lea.org/forms/awards/nomecteach.pdf>.

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