



Lutheran Education Association

linking, equipping, and affirming educators in Lutheran ministries

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Leah Schmidt Named 2009 LEA Outstanding New Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher

Leah Schmidt, first grade teacher at St. Luke's Lutheran School in Oviedo, Florida, is Lutheran Education Association's (LEA) 2009 Outstanding New Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher. Previous honors include membership in or election to Mu Alpha Theta, Phi Theta Kappa, and Pi Lambda Theta.

Ms. Schmidt earned an Associates in Science degree from Blinn College in Brenham, Texas and a B.A. in elementary education from Concordia University Texas.

In addition to teaching first grade, Ms. Schmidt is volleyball coach for grades 5 and 6 and choir assistant for first grade choir. She has school yearbook responsibilities and is a mentor for the grades 7 and 8 youth group.

Evidence of effective ministry includes leadership and collaboration within the first grade team of teachers, planning events and practicing mentorship for the Jesus and Me youth group, and involvement with an orphanage in Honduras.

Among her greatest joys in ministry, Leah says, "School, for some of my students, is the only time they hear God's Word, and it is so exciting to see them asking questions and getting excited to learn about all God has done for us."

Leah Schmidt was selected to receive this award by LEA's Early Childhood Educators Leadership and LEA staff.

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

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