



Lutheran Education Association

linking, equipping, and affirming educators in Lutheran ministries

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Alvina Becker Named LEA Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Teacher

Alvina Becker, middle school teacher at Christ Community Lutheran School in Kirkwood, Missouri, is the 2010 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Teacher. She was selected to receive this award by LEA's Elementary Teachers Network leaders and LEA staff.

In addition to teaching English and electives, Ms. Becker serves as campus chapel coordinator. She has written two art books for teachers and writes frequently for LEA and LCMS School Ministry. She has directed choirs, musicals, and dramatic productions, and has organized school concerts. Ms. Becker was previously honored as 2008 Kirkwood Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Becker earned an A.A. from Concordia Ann Arbor and moved on to Concordia University Nebraska to earn a B.S. in education, with an art major and an English minor. She also earned an M.S. in Family Life Ministry from Concordia University Seward. Ms. Becker completed LCMS SLED (school leadership) training. Before teaching at Christ Community, Ms. Becker served Lutheran preschools, elementary schools, and high schools in Michigan, Illinois, and Missouri.

Supporting her nomination, one colleague wrote, "Alvina is a master teacher, and she is always cognizant that she teaches for the Master. The faith component is a vital part to her communication arts classroom, and she always searches for ways to integrate faith life into her lessons."

A parent commented, "When I meet with her in parent-teacher conferences, she knows [my three children] not lumped together ...but rather as individual children with specific talents, traits, and needs. Listening to her talk about them, I hear a fascinated energy in her voice, and the parent in me overflows with thanksgiving that my children experience such nurture and encouragement from her."

Commenting extensively on her joys of teaching, Ms. Becker says, "I especially enjoy working with middle school students because they're actively engaged in abstract thinking that leads to bursts of seeing things on a multitude of levels and from many faceted viewpoints. So often, during class discussion, I have had the joy of literally watching the light bulbs of cognitive growth ignite."

Continuing her list of joys, Ms. Becker says, "...one of my favorite reasons for loving to work with middle school children is that they are so thirsty for their Lord and have a capacity to truly begin to understand their relationships with Him."

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