



Lutheran Education Association

linking, equipping, and affirming educators in Lutheran ministries

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James Van Dellen Named LEA 2008 Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Teacher

James R. Van Dellen, eighth-grade teacher and vice principal at Our Redeemer Lutheran School in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, is the 2008 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Teacher.

Mr. Van Dellen earned a B.A. in education from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and has completed the LCMS School Leadership Development (SLED) training. He will complete work toward an M.S. in leadership from Capella University in June 2008. Prior to his ministry at Our Redeemer, Mr. Van Dellen served Lutheran schools in Ohio and Michigan.

Supporting Mr. Van Dellen's nomination, one colleague wrote, "The total commitment exhibited by Jim is a model for all of us. He recognizes the need to be a servant to his children, their families, his colleagues, ... and the church/school community at large. His gift for teaching and leading children has been a blessing at our school. He is recognized for the multitude of ways that he has ... contributed to move our school program to the next level in both program offerings and professionalism, all the while exhibiting sound judgment. Jim Van Dellen's willing servant heart and exemplary performance in the classroom, athletic arena, church leadership of Bible studies and youth, and commitment to the relational ministry he emulates has been a true blessing to our entire school and church family!"

Mr. Van Dellen says that his greatest joy as a teachers is when students come back to visit. He says, "I feel that this indicates that ... I have done my most important job, which is to build relationships with students that will lead them toward a closer relationship with Christ." He sees his greatest challenge as "... trying to determine and follow God's direction for my life. I only want to serve Him in any way that He wishes, and, with myriad opportunities that present themselves to a Lutheran teacher each day, determining what God wants to be done in each situation can be challenging."

James Van Dellen was selected for this honor by LEA's Elementary Teachers Network leadership and LEA staff.

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

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