



Lutheran Education Association

linking, equipping, and affirming educators in Lutheran ministries

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Dr. Jeffrey Burkart Named 2012 LEA *Christus Magister*

Jeffrey Edward Burkart, Ph.D., professor emeritus, director of drama ministry, artist in residence, and coordinator of special projects at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota, is the 2012 LEA *Christus Magister* award recipient. He is the 54th LEA member to receive the *Christus Magister*. Since 1965, this most prestigious LEA award has been presented to Lutheran educators who have made significant contributions to Lutheran education. He was selected by LEA's Board of Directors.

Dr. Burkart earned a B.A. in elementary and secondary education from Concordia University Chicago, an M.A. in secondary education from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis. Among many honors, he was selected as *Officium ab Ducere* Alumnus of the Year by Luther High School North in Chicago, and he was awarded the Doctor of Letters by Concordia University Chicago.

Prior to serving at Concordia University in St. Paul, Dr. Burkart served at Martin Luther High School in Greendale, Wisconsin, St. John's Lutheran School and Church in Seward, Nebraska, and Concordia University Nebraska. Dr. Burkart maintains a vigorous schedule of teaching, consulting, speaking, leading, and serving in a variety of capacities. His credits in the arts and education number in the hundreds.

In support of Dr. Burkart's nomination, LCMS Minnesota South District president Lane Seitz commented, "Frankly, I do not know of anyone who has worked more tirelessly as a Lutheran educator than he has. Jeff...is the LCMS version of the Energizer Bunny—he just keeps on going, and going, and going—joyfully serving...individual students, Concordia University, his congregation, the Minnesota South District, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod." Concordia University, St. Paul, President Thomas Ries said, "Dr. Burkart can best be described as a man who received an abundance of talents from the Master and spent a lifetime faithfully stewarding them in His service." A former co-worker added, "His scholarship is clearly evident but absolutely never stuffy, esoteric, or arrogant. His creativity is apparently limitless and flows in an... endless stream of joyful, hopeful ideas."

Of himself, Dr. Burkart says, "My personal mission is to proclaim the gospel of Christ in words and actions to everyone who I am blessed to meet and to teach people in every stage of life that our calling is to be who God has created us to be, namely, His forgiven, redeemed children, freed in baptism to live our lives and use our gifts in faithful service to God in our family, congregation, our workplace and the world."

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