

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dian Schlichtmann named 2020 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher

Dian Schlichtmann was selected to receive Lutheran Education Association's 2020 Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher Award. Ms. Schlichtmann teaches at Immanuel Lutheran School in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. She has also served Christ in Wausau, Wis. and St. Paul in Leavenworth, Kan. during her 29-year ministry.

Dian earned an early childhood certificate from Pacific Lutheran University and a B.S. in elementary education from Concordia University Nebraska.

In support of Dian's nomination, one parent—also a co-worker—said, “Last year I was given the opportunity to be an aide in the 4K classroom at Immanuel. I could go on and on about the amazing classroom she has created, the details that go into her lesson plans, the many varied ways she teaches her students and the absolute joy it brings her as they grow in their faith. She leads the staff when it comes to getting parents involved at school – making sure we have the tools we need to succeed as well as planning fun events and activities for the whole family. And, as important as all of that is, I've learned just as much from her as the 4 year-olds entrusted to her care. Through her example I have learned greater patience, new tools to bring home to help my kids through the tough times and how to speak my faith without fear.”

Dian's principal commented. “Dian is a very organized and meticulous person who continues to grow in her knowledge in all areas for the development of children. She spends countless hours pouring her life into making an eternal impact on the students and families in her care. She has led the planning for our chapel themes for the year and has worked to bring the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards to the classroom. Dian continues to educate the family that the child is the most precious gift from God. She plans different activities to involve the family at school and to build relationships.”

Ms. Schlichtmann's pastor adds, “Dian exemplifies a passion to teach from a Lutheran perspective. As our 4K teacher, Dian is often the first exposure that new families in our school have to Lutheranism. Dian has mastered the introduction of Lutheranism to these families with a warm, welcoming, and effective approach. Dian integrates the Lutheran faith into every aspect of her students' day—religion time, crafts, stories, songs, play, and even interacting with other individuals in the school. Students in her classes are so immersed into the Gospel that families have expressed to me they learn much through their four-year-olds! Dian's ministry has led to several baptisms of students and parents during my three-and-a-half years here.”

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