

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paula Myers named 2020- LEA Distinguished Lutheran Middle School Teacher

Paula Myers was selected to receive Lutheran Education Association's 2020 Distinguished Lutheran Middle School Teacher Award. She teaches at Trinity Lutheran School in Utica, Mich. During her 33 years of teaching, she has also served Michigan Lutheran schools in Saginaw and Port Huron.

Ms. Myers earned a bachelor's degree in English and education from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich.

One parent, in support of Paula's nomination, said, "Of all the wonderful ways our children described [Paula], perhaps the most compelling is that they could see how she trusted Jesus. I have witnessed her teaching God's word with sound Lutheran doctrine and setting an example of living Christ each day, in and out of her classroom. She makes learning fun and creates a culture of kindness, compassion, and freedom for students to thrive."

Paula's principal commented, "Mrs. Myers is an effective "reader" of people. She takes the time to get to know people and is an effective listener. She can tell when people are having a tough day. Paula seeks to understand what motivates students and parents to respond in certain ways. Grace and mercy are provided in large and appropriate fashions as she meets the emotional and social needs of her students. Relationship building is a key to her service as an educator. I can see this in observing the mutual respect that is present as she works with the young people in our building. Parents see her as a support and a partner in educating children."

Her pastor described Paula this way, "I have known and seen Paula in action over 9 years in two different settings. She is a driven teacher, dedicated to helping families know and love Jesus in this world, and how they can find their place in it. Paula is just as dedicated in reaching the lost as she is teaching the found. Her interaction with staff is essential for church and school projects finishing with excellence. Just this last year she had a vital role in our school's accreditation process, which yielded us the title of School of Distinction with [National Lutheran School Accreditation]."

Paula's nominator said, "She understands what it means to be in school ministry. She feels blessed to be in her role. Visitors will note a lighthearted climate in her classroom with a sense of duty that remains. Paula melds both mom and mentor into the manner in which she interacts with the students. She smiles, her students smile. She takes leadership roles. She is a natural communicator. She corresponds with parents in a way that builds trust. She is accessible to her students who need extra assistance. A trait that is very much appreciated is that Mrs. Myers is consistent. She does not display frustration. She rolls with it. She is so even tempered. Paula has a certain peace about her. This must be a byproduct of her faith in Jesus."

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