

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2021

Mark Brink is LEA's 2021 *Christus Magister*

Mark Brink was selected by LEA's Board of Directors to receive LEA's top honor, the *Christus Magister* Award. Since 1965, this most prestigious Lutheran Education Association award has been presented to Lutheran educators who have made significant contributions to Lutheran education.

Mark is executive director for School and Youth Ministries in the Florida-Georgia District LCMS. He previously served as a teacher and principal in Lutheran schools in Illinois, Florida, and Georgia. Mark has also served in a variety of capacities working with youth, older adults, athletics, Sunday school, social ministry, and family ministry.

Mark earned a B.S./LTD from Concordia College, River Forest, Illinois (now Concordia University Chicago) and an M.S. in administration from Nova Southeastern University, Davie, Florida.

When asked about his greatest joys in ministry, Mark said "Working with a great team and celebrating their accomplishments with them is awesome. God has blessed the Church with so much incredible talent to accomplish His mission, and I love giving people the opportunity to use theirs to His glory and for the benefit of people He places in their path."

Of the many leadership challenges that Mark faces, he said, "My greatest challenge is establishing relationships with new workers and lay leaders, as well as maintaining and nurturing established relationships. As the months go by and we adapt to an unsettled new rhythm, it has become even more difficult." Mark's personal mission statement is "Partnering with God's people to be and do."

Mr. Brink's nominator said, "I have great respect for Mark. As a newer education executive, he has been encouraging, welcoming, and supportive of me. His experience and passion for ministry is evident, and he provides wisdom and leadership for all of the district leaders. I also know that he provides even more support and care for the schools in the FL-GA district. He would be very worthy of this recognition."

In support of Mark's nomination, a colleague said, "Mark has always impressed me as an innovative, strong and capable leader. He has the skill and ability to engender trust and respect from all with whom he serves. Mark's leadership ensures that educators in Lutheran ministry feel that they are doing the most important job in the world, as he affirms and supports them "in the trenches." Mark follows Christ's example of humble, thoughtful leadership. Mark is one of the most grace-filled, faith-filled leaders I know!"

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