

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Janis King named 2021 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Administrator

Janis King was selected to receive Lutheran Education Association's 2021 Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Administrator Award.

Janis is the preschool director at St. John's Lutheran School in Napa, California. She previously served in early childhood programs elsewhere in California. Her previous awards include The "Unsung Director's Award" from the CNH District and the Long Island Lutheran High School Alumni Award. Janis is active in many local and district children's ministries. She earned a Masters of Education from the University of Houston and a B.A. in elementary education from Concordia College New York.

"My greatest joys" Janis said, "have always come from working with the children! I also enjoy coordinating and leading the early childhood director meetings for the CNH District...and mentoring preschool directors in both the CNH District and as a California State Mentor Director."

Janis faced challenges too—COVID-19 being one. Janis said, "I had to persevere even when I didn't think I could. I have spent much time in prayer asking Jesus to give me the strength, knowledge, and stamina to move forward and take one day at a time!" Before COVID, she had to deal with flooding in the preschool from a broken pipe and smoke from the Napa Valley wildfires, which temporarily impacted the early childhood program.

One of Janis' nominators wrote, "Janis has been the preschool director for the past 16 years at St. John's. Throughout that time, she has also served as the director of children's ministry and as the early childhood consultant for CNH. Janis is compassionate and loving towards her students, staff, and their families. Janis has effectively led her preschool through several accreditation cycles and is the epitome of what a Lutheran early childhood administrator should be." Janis also received several additional highly favorable recommendations from colleagues and parents.

Janis' personal mission statement is "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

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