

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Becky McKinney named 2021 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher

Becky McKinney was selected to receive Lutheran Education Association's 2021 Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher Award.

Ms. McKinney teaches at Central Lutheran School in Newhall, Iowa, where she also serves on a variety of committees and volunteers to help with extra-curricular activities. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa, with a double major in early childhood and elementary education. Becky also earned a Master's in early childhood education from Concordia Nebraska. She was previously honored as Early Childhood Educator of the Year by the LCMS Iowa District East.

Becky describes one of her greatest joys in ministry as watching the children learn about Jesus and hearing them talk about what they have learned in their play. She says it is "rewarding to see them take what they learn and share God's love with family members."

Becky's nominator said, "Becky is the ideal Lutheran preschool teacher—patient, caring, Christ-like, and always positive. Parents have said many times one main reason they bring their children to our preschool is because of the teacher—Mrs. Becky McKinney."

In support of Becky's nomination, one of her pastors said, "Building relationships appears to be one of Becky's passions. She instills friendly, respectful, and loving relationships among her students. Every child is made to feel special. She listens intently to each child's story. Becky communicates well with parents, sending texts and taking a moment to visit with each parent when they pick up their children. Most importantly, Mrs. Becky encourages each child's relationship with Jesus. She is conscientious about incorporating faith and the love of Jesus into everything she teaches."

Also supporting Becky's nomination, one parent commented, "As a parent, I appreciate the way she communicates with us. She has always been kind, honest, and always goes out of her way to help any way she can. Her love of teaching shines through with her enthusiasm she has for her kids."

Becky's personal mission statement is "to share the love of Jesus with my students and their families through my words and actions."

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