

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Ruth Wiedenmann named 2021 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Teacher

Ruth Wiedenmann was selected to receive Lutheran Education Association's 2021 Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Teacher Award. Ms. Wiedenmann, a 45-year veteran of Lutheran education, teaches fourth grade at St. Luke's Lutheran School in Oviedo, Florida. She also directs the hand bell ministry of the church and school and serves as an organist and developer of the school's Advent services. Ruth has also served in several other positions at St. Luke's as well as at Lutheran schools in Texas and Illinois.

Ruth earned a B.A. in elementary education and church music from Concordia University Chicago. She has been honored with the Outstanding Lutheran Educator Award from the LCMS Florida-Georgia District and the Good Samaritan Award from Lutheran Services Florida.

In initiating Ruth's nomination, one administrator provided a comprehensive case for Ruth. He said, "Ruth is a Lutheran educator of remarkable faith, enduring passion, and a tremendous heart for service to children and families of all kinds. She is known for her generosity and sacrifice; it's routine for staff, church members, or parents to receive a fresh-baked pie or gift card with a kind, handwritten note. She also serves the school and church ably outside the classroom through her musical gifts. In addition, Ruth has been active in the school accreditation process as a team leader and commission member."

Ruth's pastor commented, "Ruth has written, organized, and conducted the midweek Advent services featuring our first through eighth grade students as worship leaders. Ruth helped develop and implement an annual outdoor Christmas pageant called 'From Everywhere to Bethlehem.' This annual event in recent years has brought over 3,000 visitors to our campus to hear the message of Jesus' birth and his gift of forgiveness and eternal life."

Among her joys in ministry, Ruth said, "Some of my greatest joys in working with students come from watching the Lord develop their servant hearts and love for others."

Ruth's personal mission statement is based on Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." She commented, "When you are rooted in Christ, He is constantly changing and empowering you for new avenues of service."

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