

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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David Gesch named 2021 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Middle School Teacher

David Gesch was selected to receive Lutheran Education Association's 2021 Distinguished Lutheran Middle School Teacher Award. He teaches various subjects in grades 4–8 and serves as athletic director and coach at Redeemer Christian Academy in Wayzata, Minnesota. David has also served in Wisconsin. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from Concordia University Nebraska.

When asked about his greatest joys in ministry, David said, "One of my great joys is when I see my kids very matter-of-factly talking about Jesus with that unwavering, undoubting, child-like faith." He continued, "As far as pure joy goes, nothing beats an unchurched, no-faith background child coming in to my room and seeing them leave with an active faith!"

Parental support for David's nomination included this accolade: "David has taught each one of our children. David has served in a variety of leadership positions at Redeemer, such as that of interim school principal, as an elder...a referee at countless basketball games, as basketball coach...as athletic director for the school.... In addition to David's extensive involvement in sports, he is also responsible for creating and coordinating the celebration of Veterans Day...to lift up, pray for, and thank those who have and currently serve our nation in uniform."

David's pastor also supports his nomination. "David and I have worked together in ministry, pastor and teacher, for 6 ½ years at Redeemer Christian Academy. Two of our four daughters who attend R.C.A. have had the blessing of being mentored by this man of God. At home they talk about his funny quips, his love of the Green Bay Packers, but most of all, his love of Jesus and his effective teaching style—personable, high standards, engaged with the students."

Dave's nominator captured his qualifications for this award. "His love of Christ shows through everything he does. The middle schoolers respect his consistent and calm demeanor. Mr. Gesch goes above and beyond for his students in everyday teaching and in the events he leads outside of the school day. One of his most important legacies is the Veteran's Day celebration.... He brings in veterans from our community and honors them through letters and poems, and the children write songs and speeches."

David's personal mission statement is "Building servant leaders who love their Savior and love their country!"

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