

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michaela Wilaby Named 2022 LEA Outstanding New Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher

Michaela Wilaby was selected to receive Lutheran Education Association's 2022 Outstanding New Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher Award. She is in her first year of teaching kindergarten at Pilgrim Lutheran School in Green Bay, Wis. She also serves as girls' basketball coach.

Ms. Wilaby earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Concordia University Wisconsin. She was the recipient of the Martha Konz Student Educator Award for superior achievement in the field of teacher education and was a nominee for the Donna J. Streufert Women's Leadership Award.

Michaela found joy in her first year of teaching. She said, "Sharing Bible stories, God's grace, Christ-like forgiveness, and Jesus' love with my students has been a great joy, especially when I have seen them begin to do the same with one another."

Ms. Wilaby did not escape challenges. "My greatest challenge has been meeting the unique, God-given needs of each student who has been placed in my care."

Michaela's principal said, "Parents have shared with me their thanks for Michaela and her teaching, commending her Christian methods, her classroom atmosphere, and her dignified professionalism. I foresee the children in her room becoming highly successful as a result of Michaela's instructional methodology."

One parent commented, "She has found the perfect combination of encouragement and structure to motivate our son to be successful. I could sense her passion for teaching and care for children... She talks to them at their level and truly sees them for who they are."

Michaela's personal mission statement is "to be a model of Christ's love to each student, sharing the good news of the Gospel while growing them academically."

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