

Bob Ziegler Named 2006 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Administrator



The Lutheran Education Association has announced that our principal, Bob Ziegler, has been selected as the Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Administrator for 2006!

This is a tremendous honor for Bob, considering that there are over one thousand Lutheran elementary schools in the United States.



Saint Michael will honor Bob at the 10:45 service on Sunday, March 12th, at which time an LEA official will make a presentation. A reception in the Anderson/Eichler building will follow the service.

Bob will officially receive the award in front of his peers at the LEA National Administrators Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, March 27-29.

The award is based on the following criteria:

- Strong commitment to serving the Lord
- Active in local community as well as Lutheran community
- Commitment to excellence and meeting the social, emotional, spiritual, and cognitive needs of children and families
- Active administrator in a Lutheran elementary school with at least five years experience
- Equipped and willing to profess and teach Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective; desired: synodically trained, colloquized, or active participant in Colloquy program
- Outstanding leadership through curriculum development, staff morale, and family involvement.
Active member of LEA, participant in LEADnet, and member of other professional associations

Bob has served in LCMS schools for twenty-five years - at Peace in Fort Lauderdale, St. John in Good Thunder, Minnesota, Mount Hope Redemption in Bloomington, Minnesota, St. John in Ellisville, Missouri, and Concordia in Peoria, Illinois, before coming to Saint Michael in 1999. He earned a B.A. in education from Concordia University Nebraska and an M.S. in administration from Mankato State University in Minnesota. Previous national service and honors include piloting National Lutheran School Accreditation, helping to establish the School Leadership Development project (in which he still serves), and being a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow.

Bob is respected because of his work and personality. One of our school parents wrote, "Bob's solid faith in ... Jesus Christ is perhaps his strongest attribute. Being principal of a Lutheran school ... gives quite an opportunity for witnessing to children and their families about Jesus Christ. Bob not only openly shares God's Word with all of our staff and students, but most importantly, Bob demonstrates his faith throughout his day-to-day walk."

In reflecting on the calling process that brought Bob to Saint Michael, Pastor Zehnder said, "...we were looking for an administrator who could not only continue to keep St. Michael on the cutting edge of academic excellence but also one who could effectively lead and communicate the preciousness of our faith in our Savior Jesus Christ. Bob has delivered on both fronts!"

When asked about his greatest joys in ministry, Bob said, "My greatest joys come when we baptize a student into the family of God." Furthermore, "When a student is kind and caring ... or writes an essay or poem about Jesus' love, I know we are making a difference for life here and for eternity."

Congratulations Bob! As Pastor Jon stated when hearing of the award, "Well done, good and faithful servant."



<http://www.lea.org/deprtmtnt/leadhome.htm>