



LEAnews

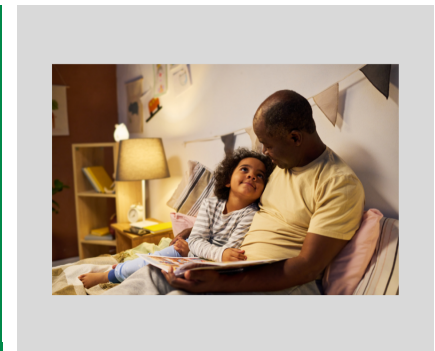
January 13, 2026

News and Tips for LEA Members

On Thursday evening, January 22nd, LEA will celebrate the retirement of Dr. Jonathan Laabs after 48 ½ years of full-time Lutheran education ministry. If you wish to send a note to Dr. Laabs, you can email it to Denise Rice at denise.rice@lea.org to be included with all other congratulatory messages, or you may mail it to the LEA office at Lutheran Education Association, 7400 Augusta Street, River Forest, IL 60305. Dr. Laabs recently wrote a blog, "[Growing Lutheran Education—A New Beginning](#)," about his time in ministry.



A recent study found that less than half of children are read to daily. The consequences are serious for early learners who enter school unprepared. Learn more at [Why Parents Aren't Reading to Kids, and What It Means for Students](#). (Jessika Harkay in *The74*)



Thoughtful AI for School Leaders will be a full-day event featuring tips, resources, and hands-on workshops to equip church and school leaders to use AI in Lutheran education. LEA's National Administrators Conference will be held in Phoenix on Wednesday, February 11th (the day before Best Practices). For more information and to register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/AINAC26>. (Yes, any leader in your church dealing with AI can attend) See you there!

2026 LEA NATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026
CROWNE PLAZA PHOENIX AIRPORT, PHOENIX, AZ

Are you curious about how to best use AI in YOUR School?
Thoughtful AI for School Leaders is for ANYONE!
(Administrators, Educators, Pastors, DCEs)

Conference Overview

- AI Overview
- Faith & Ethics in the AI Era
- Personal Use Cases
- Admin & Teacher Support Tools
- Student Considerations
- What's Coming Next
- Image Generation & Creative Tools
- Creating a Growth Community
- Next Steps: Your AI Action Plans
- Hands On Learning and Breakouts

Presenters

- David Black, Lutheran High School, Parker, CO
- Dennis Grice, Faith Lutheran Middle & High School, Las Vegas, NV
- Jonathan Orr, Lutheran Education Association of Houston, Houston, TX

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Educators are divided on the issue of extra credit: Some believe it motivates students and personalizes learning, while others argue it is inequitable and does not accurately measure student knowledge. What do you think? [Should Students Be Allowed Extra Credit? Teachers are Divided](#). (Jennifer Vilcarino in *Education Week*)

The Anxious Generation has sparked a global conversation about the effects of smartphones and social media on young people's development, inspiring millions of parents, teachers, and leaders to take action. There is now a book for kids you may wish to read. ***The Amazing Generation* by Jonathan Haidt and Catherine Price** for 9-12 year olds isn't just a book about what not to do; it's a bold, optimistic, and practical guide to help kids become their most confident selves. (Purchase it at your favorite bookstore.)
Looking for a book to use in children's ministry?

Don't miss these weekly LEA resources...

[WOW Video](#)

[Weekly Devotion](#) by Ed Grube

[LEAven Blog](#)

[What Works For Me Podcast](#)

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we provide links to connect members to information they might find useful.

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