

November 5, 2026 For Participants in LEA's Middle School Educators Network

Nominations for the 2027 LEA Awards are officially OPEN ! It's time to celebrate the incredible educators, administrators, and ministers who pour their hearts into Lutheran education every day. If you work alongside a colleague who goes above and beyond to meet the spiritual, emotional, and cognitive needs of children and families, please nominate them by **Friday, November 20, 2026**! Criteria for each award can be found on the LEA website at https://www.lea.org/awards/



New This Year: If you are nominating your pastor for the *LEA Distinguished Lutheran School Team Pastor* award, you are now responsible for collecting three letters of recommendation (from an administrator/board chair, a teacher, and a parent) and emailing them to Denise Rice by January 22, 2027. Check out the award criteria at lea.org/awards and submit your nomination today at tinyurl.com/LEANominations2027!

Educators share effective scaffolding strategies to address diverse student needs, advocating for differentiated instruction through text chunking and choice boards, while highlighting the importance of identifying students' learning gaps and using visuals, vocabulary preteaching, and structured academic talk, while emphasizing the emotional aspect of scaffolding, suggesting that building trust and understanding students' emotional states can enhance learning. Learn more at 'A Must for Effective Teaching': 14 Ways to Fill Holes in Students' Learning. (Larry Ferlazzo in *Education Week*)

What is NowComment and How Can I Use It to Teach? It is a free online tool that lets teachers bring students together around the same learning materials, with built-in annotation and discussion. Teachers can upload reading material and invite students to comment on it, with each comment linked to a specific part of the document. The platform works with text, images, and video, so it can be used for more than traditional reading activities. (Luke Edwards in *Teach & Learning*)

Should teachers step in when students struggle, or can a little frustration actually lead to deeper learning? Productive struggle challenges middle school students to think critically, persevere, and develop confidence in their problem-solving abilities. Discover how to create appropriately challenging learning experiences, provide support without giving away answers, and help students take ownership of their progress in The What, Why and How of Productive Struggle. (Barbara Blackburn and Sherry Johnson in *MiddleWeb*)

Calling All Lutheran Education Leaders! Registration is open for the 2027 Lutheran School Administrators Conference, happening March 8–10, 2027, in Concord, North Carolina. Whether you lead an early childhood center, elementary school, high school, or a parish with a school, this is your premier

opportunity to network nationally, collaborate in Christ, and grow professionally.

- Register HERE
- Don't miss this collaborative event by ALSS, LEA, and LCMS School Ministry.
- Details & updates: Check out the 2027 Administrators Conference Page to stay informed!

Don’t miss these weekly LEA resources…

WOW Video

Weekly Devotion by Ed Grube

The LEArning Curve Blog

What Works For Me Podcast

Disclaimer: LEA shares resources from various sources; we encourage you to review them through a Lutheran perspective for use in your ministry.
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