

November 16, 2026 For Members of LEA's Elementary Educators Network

Great Educators Deserve Recognition — Nominate Someone Today! The deadline for 2027 LEA Award nominations is Friday, November 20! Every day, dedicated educators, administrators, and pastors make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families through Lutheran education. Do you know someone whose exceptional service, leadership, and commitment deserve to be celebrated? Now is your opportunity to recognize them! Nominate a deserving colleague for a 2027 Lutheran Education Association award. Don't let their outstanding contributions go unnoticed! Explore the award categories and criteria at lea.org/awards, and submit your nomination by November 20! Important Reminder for Distinguished Lutheran School Team Pastor Nominations: Nominators are responsible for collecting three letters of recommendation—one each from an administrator or board chair, a teacher, and a parent—and email them to Denise Rice by January 22, 2027. Take a moment to honor someone who makes a difference. Nominate them today!



A pumpkin can become an entire unit if you let it. Arts-Integrated Outdoor Lessons for Elementary Students has engaging fall activities that encourage students to slow down and learn from what's around them. (Charlene Lutz in *Edutopia*)

Holiday Ideas for December 2026

December 7–Pearl Harbor Day: Understanding Pearl Harbor is a free *National Park Service* lesson that introduces students to the events of December 7, 1941, why Pearl Harbor was important, and how the attack led to America's entry into World War II. It includes map exploration, historical photographs and primary sources, discussion questions, and a creative timeline or poster activity. The lesson is designed for approximately 1–2 class periods.

December 25–Christmas: Christmas Wonders by *Trueway Kids* is a free five-part Bible lesson series for 2026 combining the Christmas story with hands-on STEAM challenges, crafts, worksheets, and activities. Students explore Jesus' birth and God's promise of a Savior.

This week, LEA is highlighting the book:

Saint Nicholas
By Julie Stiegemeyer
Concordia Publishing House
2003

This is the story of the real St. Nicholas, a Christian bishop who modeled how Christmas gift-giving reflects the sacrificial gift of Jesus, God's Son.

Happy Thanksgiving from LEA! In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, Ministry Resources will not be published the week of November 23. As we pause to give thanks for God's many blessings, we are especially grateful for you and your faithful service to Lutheran education. May your Thanksgiving be filled with worship, joy, gratitude, rest, and time with those you love. Wishing you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving!

Don't miss these weekly LEA resources…

WOW Video

Weekly Devotion by Ed Grube

The LEArning Curve Blog

What Works For Me Podcast

DisclaDisclaimer: 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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