

November 17, 2026 News and Information for LEA Members

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 emailing them to Denise Rice by January 22, 2027. Take a moment to honor someone who makes a difference. Nominate them today!



Holiday Ideas for December 2026

December 7–Pearl Harbor Day: Hawaii Homefront, 1941 is a resource that explores everyday life in Hawaii around the time of the Pearl Harbor attack. It offers a different, child-centered perspective on history. (*National Museum of the U.S. Navy*)

December 25–Christmas: Looking for some Christmas party ideas? Christian Christmas Games has six printable games, including Nativity Bingo, Christmas Story Charades, Bible verse scrambles, story sequencing, and a scavenger hunt. Includes instructions and answer keys, with no sign-up required. (*Mary's Printables*)

Our Lutheran schools are a treasure and a tremendous blessing to the LCMS. Every school year, thousands upon thousands of children hear the Gospel in our classrooms. But how do we preserve faithful Lutheran education in today's world? The Challenges Facing Lutheran Schools provides ideas you may wish to discuss with your pastor and school board. (Sarah Reinsel in *The Lutheran Witness*).

The Center for Christian Education at Concordia University Chicago is thrilled to offer five virtual professional development sessions this coming spring 2027!
This expanded series will be held from 4:00–5:00 PM CT, and CPDUs are available.

Sessions include:

- Tuesday, Jan. 19 — Rethinking Environments to Reflect Brain Development with Dr. Annette VanAken
- Tuesday, Feb. 2 — Active Literacy: Engaging Learning Strategies for Deepening Comprehension Using Picture Books with Dr. Kari Pawl
- Tuesday, Mar. 16 — Igniting Curiosity in the Age of Instant Knowledge: Engaging Every Student Through Active Learning with Dr. Steve Gerner
- Tuesday, Mar. 30 — Courageous Conversations in Faith-Based School Leadership with Drs. Mary Zaharis and Denise Glasgow
- Tuesday, Apr. 6 — Teaching Black History: Character, Community and Civics with The Woodson Center

Space is limited! Scan QR code to the right for more information.



Leadership comes with challenges, but you don't have to navigate them alone! Join fellow Lutheran school administrators at the 2027 Lutheran School Administrators Conference for three days of encouragement, collaboration, and practical ideas to strengthen your leadership and your school community. March 8–10, 2027, in Charlotte, North Carolina. NEW THIS YEAR! Take your learning even further with the Pre-Conference Bootcamp on Fundraising and Philanthropy, presented by Concordia University Nebraska. Add this valuable opportunity when you register! Come ready to connect, learn, and leave inspired! 👉 **Register today:** https://tinyurl.com/LSAC2027REG

Don’t miss these weekly LEA resources…

WOW Video

Weekly Devotion by Ed Grube

The LEArning Curve Blog

What Works For Me Podcast

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