



SOUTH WISCONSIN

DISTRICT

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

2025-26 Educators of the Year

Gene Ladendorf Principal of the Year – Libby MacGillis, St. John, Plymouth

Early Childhood Director of the Year – Christina Zeuner, St. Paul Early Childhood Center, Sheboygan Falls

Teacher of the Year - High School – Elisabeth Michael, Racine Lutheran High School

Teacher of the Year - 4th-8th Grade – Kyle Jagler, Immanuel, Brookfield

Teacher of the Year - K4-3rd Grade – Autumn Bynum, Immanuel, Brookfield

Teacher of the Year – Birth-3 Years – Amber Curtis, Divine Redeemer Early Childhood Development Center, Hartland

Previous Recipients

2024/2025

Gene Ladendorf Principal of the Year – Wendy Kretschmar, St. Paul, Sheboygan

Teacher of the Year (High School) – Jeff Jurss, Sheboygan Lutheran High School, Sheboygan

Teacher of the Year (4th-8th Grade) – Mariel Otp, Immanuel, Brookfield

Teacher of the Year (K4-3rd Grade) – Elizabeth Gottschalk, Mt. Olive, Milwaukee

2023/2024

Gene Ladendorf Principal of the Year – Jenny Wolff, Beautiful Savior, Waukesha

Early Childhood Director – Melinda Neuenfeldt, Trinity ECC, Mequon

High School – Jill Hofstad, Journeys Lutheran High School

Elementary (4th-8th Grade) – Jennifer Boris, Divine Redeemer, Hartland

Early Childhood (4K-3rd Grade) – Hannah Covek, Immanuel, Brookfield

Early Childhood (Infant-3yr) – Dawn Weber, Divine Redeemer ECDC

2022/2023

Principal – Jennifer Comfort, St. John, Glendale

High School – Scott Nickel, Martin Luther High School, Greendale

Elementary (4th-8th Grade) – Erin Ballard, Mt. Olive, Milwaukee

Early Childhood Director – Ally Spors, Divine Redeemer, Hartland

Early Childhood (Infant-3yr) – Angie Kelm, First Immanuel, Cedarburg

Early Childhood (4K-3rd Grade) – Allison Toerpe, Trinity, Sheboygan

2021/2022

Principal – Jill George, St. Paul, Oconomowoc

High School – Monica Siebarth, Milwaukee Lutheran High School

Elementary (4th-8th Grade) – John Gehm, St. John, Glendale

Early Childhood Director – Jamie Andrews, Good Shepherd, Pleasant Prairie

Early Childhood (Infant-3yr) – Amy Welzien, First Immanuel, Cedarburg

Early Childhood (4K-3rd Grade) – Kristine Weber, Immanuel, Brookfield

2020/2021

Administrator – Rachel Miliacca, Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Center, Oak Creek

High School – Matthew Thiel, Sheboygan Area Lutheran High School

Elementary – Sarah Schultz, St. John's, West Bend

Early Childhood – Alison Pipkorn, First Immanuel, Cedarburg

2019/2020

Administrator – Nicole Janisse, St. John's Early Childhood Center, West Bend

High School – Linda Koebert, Milwaukee Lutheran High School

Elementary – Robin Roeske, First Immanuel, Cedarburg

Early Childhood – Katelyn Cody, St. Paul, Grafton

2018/2019

Administrator – Jennifer Leinss, Blessed Savior Early Childhood Center, New Berlin

High School – Jonathan Balsman, Living Word Lutheran High School, Jackson

Elementary – Elizabeth MacGillis, St. John Lutheran School, Plymouth

Early Childhood – Deanne Boyce, St. Paul Lutheran School, Grafton

2017/2018

Administrator – Dawn Walker, First Immanuel, Cedarburg

High School – Robert Cody, Living Word, Jackson

Elementary – Abby Johnson, St. John's, West Bend

Early Childhood – Dauna Werner, St. Paul, Grafton

2016/2017

Administrator – Michael Yurk, St. Paul, Grafton

Early Childhood Director – Catrina Kagerbauer, Trinity Early Childhood Center, Mequon

High School – Jason Jurss, Milwaukee Lutheran High School

Elementary – Joy Yurk, St. Paul, Grafton

Early Childhood – Katrina Schroeder, Mt. Calvary, Milwaukee

2015/2016

Administrator – Sharon Wallace, Immanuel, Brookfield

Early Childhood Director – Sandra Ruback, St. Andrew Early Childhood Campus, West Bend

High School – Richard Zeuner, Sheboygan Lutheran High School

Elementary – Katelyn Shields, First Immanuel, Cedarburg

Early Childhood – Candace Crass, St. John's, Glendale

2014/2015

Administrator – Rosalie Meier, St. Paul, Grafton

High School – John Ellenberger, Milwaukee Lutheran High School

Elementary – Jennifer Comfort, St. John's, Glendale

Early Childhood – Kathy Oldenburg, Divine Redeemer, Hartland / Michelle Pingel, Bethlehem, Sheboygan

2013/2014

Administrator – Lori Kilps, Good Shepherd, Two Rivers

Elementary – Becky Rohde, Divine Redeemer, Hartland

Early Childhood – Kimberly Hoffmann, St. John’s, Racine

2012/2013

Administrator – Scott Boris, Christ the Life Preschool, Waukesha

High School – Rob Seder, Lake Country LHS, Hartland

Elementary – Casey Miller, First Immanuel, Cedarburg

Early Childhood – Cheryl Witek, St. John’s, Racine

2011/2012

Administrator – Jim Pingel, Sheboygan LHS

High School – Katie Baganz, Lake Country LHS

Elementary – Nicole Valdez, First Immanuel, Cedarburg

Early Childhood – Camala Bedroske, Trinity, Menasha

2010/2011

Administrator – James Breytung, Our Redeemer, Delavan

High School – Myrna Lastusky, Lutheran High School, Sheboygan

Elementary – Susan Kalchbrenner, Zion, Menomonee Falls

Early Childhood – Denise Kegley, Our Redeemer, Wauwatosa

2008/2009

Administrator – Duane Graf, St. Paul’s, West Allis

High School – Kevin Hasseldahl, Racine Lutheran High School

Elementary – Roxanne Gerlach, St. Paul’s, Oconomowoc

Early Childhood – Tammy Horton, St. Paul’s, Oconomowoc

2007/2008

High School: Mark Newman, Lake Country Lutheran High School

Early Childhood: Paula Pierce, St. John, North Prairie

2006/2007

High School: Brad Alles, Milwaukee Lutheran

Elementary: Jeanne Meyer, Grace, Oak Creek

Early Childhood: Laurie Prewitt, New Hope, Neenah