

For Immediate Release

Outstanding Educator Kim Kusilek Named ELCA Early Childhood Director of the Year

GOODYEAR, ARIZONA—May 25, 2016—Kim Kusilek, director of Harbour Pointe Christian School in Mukilteo, Washington, has been selected as the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association’s 2016 Early Childhood Director of the Year. ELEA is the national membership association of private secondary, elementary and early childhood schools throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the largest Lutheran church body in the United States. “Director Kusilek was nominated by a colleague, and selected by her fellow administrators through a national search process conducted by the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association”, said Gayle Denny, Executive Director of ELEA.

Holding a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, Ms. Kusilek has served as Director of Harbour Pointe Christian School in Mukilteo since 2002. She also has the designation as Coordinator of Schools for Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood, Washington. Pointe of Grace and Harbour Pointe Christian School are a ministry site of Trinity Lutheran Church. She served as teacher at Harbour Pointe from 1998 until being named Director in 2002.

Criteria for selection of the ELCA Early Childhood Director of the Year program require that the honorees are active administrators of schools where programs are designed to meet the physical, academic and social needs of all children served and where there are firmly established community ties with parents and local business organizations.

Ms. Kusilek has a long list of accomplishments at Harbour Pointe Christian School, but the area in which she seems to shine the most is in team development among her staff and the staff of the entire Trinity Lutheran Church trio of schools where she provides key administrative leadership. Pastor Paul Sundberg of Trinity Lutheran says of Kim: “Her work has led to more effective handling of curricula, personnel issues, policy development, resource development and finances in all three schools. Simply put, Kim has bettered our ministry wherever she has touched it.” One of her classroom teachers says, “Kim is patient and kind, showing God’s love as she ministers to others. She has a caring heart and a genuine concern for others.”

Kim Kusilek will be honored at the February 14-16, 2017 ELEA National Administrator & Pastor Conference being held at the Marriott Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia, along with the recipients of the 2016 ELCA Elementary Principal of the Year Award, the 2016 Distinguished Pastor of the Year Award, and ELEA’s Donald A. Vetter Educational Service Award.

Since 1988, the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association has served as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s professional educational association and now represents 1400+ early childhood programs throughout the nation, along with about 100 elementary and secondary schools. ELEA is also an active member of CAPE – the Council for American Private Education.

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