



Pastor David Parks Named ELCA Distinguished Pastor of the Year

GOODYEAR, ARIZONA—May 26, 2016—David Parks, Pastor of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church and its early childhood weekday ministry program, Our Savior’s Preschool, in Everett, Washington, has been selected as the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association’s 2016 Distinguished Pastor of the Year. This is an exciting award established and given by ELEA, 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. “Pastor Parks was nominated by Our Savior’s early childhood director, and selected by the ELEA National Board of Directors after a national search process conducted by the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association”, said Gayle Denny, Executive Director of ELEA.

Holding an Associate of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from Lutheran Bible Institute, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Trinity Lutheran College and an M.Div. from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Pastor Parks has served as Lead Pastor at Our Savior’s since 2000.

Criteria for selection of the ELEA Distinguished Pastor of the Year program require that the honorees are active pastors in ELCA congregations which sponsor a weekday early childhood center, elementary or secondary school and that they provide spiritual guidance to the children, families and staff of that school or center. Honorees must receive high recommendations from a principal or director, faculty member, school board/parish council officer and parent or a present or former student and receive the endorsement and approval of their Synodical Bishop.

Pastor Parks received many positive affirmations of his work from those who know him. Debra Cooper, Our Savior’s Preschool Director says, “Pastor David is truly an amazing pastor who cares about people. He has many wonderful gifts but his compassion stands out through his words and actions.”

Pastor David Parks will be honored at the February 14-16, 2017 ELEA National Administrator & Pastor Conference being held at the Marriott Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, along with the recipients of the 2016 ELCA Elementary Principal of the Year Award, the 2016 ELCA Early Childhood Director 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 approximately 100 elementary and secondary schools. ELEA is also an active member of CAPE – the Council for American Private Education.

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