

For: Immediate Release

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Amber Curtis receives South Wisconsin District 2026 Teacher of the Year Recognition

Amber Curtis has been in Lutheran education for 24 years and loved by her current and former students

Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, School, and Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC), located in Hartland, is proud to announce that one of our very own teachers, has won Teacher of the Year from the South Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.



Mrs. Amber Curtis, 3k teacher, has been named the **South Wisconsin District Teacher of the Year for Birth to 3**, an honor recognizing her exceptional dedication, compassion, and impact on early childhood education. Amber has been in Lutheran education for 24 years, with 21 of these years at Divine Redeemer.

This prestigious award celebrates educators who demonstrate excellence in teaching, innovation in early learning, and a deep commitment to nurturing the developmental, emotional, and spiritual growth of young children. Mrs. Curtis's work with her preschool students has made a lasting difference not only in the lives of her students, but also in the families she serves and the broader school community.

Known for her warmth, professionalism, and child-centered approach, Mrs. Curtis creates a safe, engaging, and developmentally-rich environment where children can grow, explore, and thrive. Her passion for early childhood education is evident in her thoughtful instruction, strong partnerships with families, and unwavering advocacy for the unique needs of children. She is also known for her smiling, bubbly personality towards both her students, all students and co-workers, which is a blessing.

"Amber are *truly magical* to watch as she teaches her 3kers." said a school parent. Janet Bahr, principal said, "Her dedication to her students and to the church through all the events she leads is evident. She is always willing to go above and beyond. The way she can engage the preschoolers in chapel is a gift." Early Childhood Development Center director Ally Spors says this of Amber, "Amber lives out our school's mission of Knowing, Growing, and Going with Jesus in powerful and meaningful ways. She helps her students KNOW Jesus by experiencing His love through her words and genuine actions. She helps her students GROW in their faith and confidence as learners, and she helps them begin to GO into the world with kindness, curiosity, and with the joy of Jesus."

The South Wisconsin District Teacher of the Year award highlights educators who go above and beyond in shaping the foundation of learning during a child's earliest years. Mrs. Curtis's recognition brings honor to Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, School, and ECDC and serves as an inspiration to fellow educators throughout the district.

Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Amber Curtis on this well-deserved honor and in celebrating her remarkable contributions to early childhood education. Amber and the other winners will be honored at the Teacher of the Year awards banquet on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at The Florian in Germantown.

