



**Outstanding Educator Christopher Andrade Named
ELCA Principal of the Year and National Distinguished Principal**

GOODYEAR, ARIZONA—June 10, 2015—Christopher Andrade, principal of Christ Lutheran School in West Covina, California, was selected as the ELCA 2016 Principal of the Year. ELCA schools are served through 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. “Principal Andrade was nominated by a colleague, and selected by his fellow principals through a national process conducted by the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association”, said Gayle Denny, Executive Director of ELEA.

A graduate of California State Polytechnic University, with a Master of Arts Degree from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California, Mr. Andrade has served Christ Lutheran as principal and previously as assistant principal and teacher since 1986. He has served as principal since 2010.

As Principal of the Year for the ELCA, Christopher Andrade’s application was submitted to the National Association of Elementary School Principals as a candidate for the National Distinguished Principal award and has been chosen to also receive that prestigious award. “At the helm of every successful school is a successful principal,” said Gail Connelly, NAESP’s Executive Director. “Our National Distinguished Principals program provides us with an opportunity to recognize the outstanding leadership of these principals and their commitment to creating successful learning communities. Because of them, students thrive academically, teachers grow professionally, and communities are strengthened.” The Private School Selection Committee of NAESP’s NDP program met in early June to determine which candidates within the private school arena are worthy of this award. All five candidates chosen in the private school arena, including Mr. Andrade, are outstanding principals.

Criteria for selection of both the ELCA Principal of the Year Award and the National Distinguished Principal program require that the honorees are active principals of schools where programs are designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students and where there are firmly established community ties with parents and local business organizations.

Cathey Novack, Director of Early Childhood Education at Christ Lutheran Church and School, says of Mr. Andrade, “He has always shown a desire to make the school a better place for all the students and is concerned about the level of education the school offers each child, not just in academics, but their spiritual and physical development as well. He continually strives to provide new experiences for the students to make their school experience at Christ Lutheran memorable and life changing.”

Christopher Andrade will be honored at the October 6-7, 2016 National Distinguished Principal event in Washington DC, as well as at the February 14-16, 2017 ELEA National Administrator & Pastor Conference being held at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia. Recipients of the 2016 ELCA Distinguished Pastor of the Year Award, the 2016 ELCA Early Childhood Director of the Year Award, and ELEA’s Donald A. Vetter Educational Service Award will also be honored at that event.

Since 1988, the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association has served as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s professional educational association and represents about 100 elementary and middle-level principals throughout the nation, along with 1400 early childhood programs. ELEA maintains close ties with the metropolitan Washington DC - based National Association of Elementary School Principals and its 23,000 members worldwide, and is also an active member of CAPE – the Council for American Private Education.

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