

Richard Rath Honored for Educational Ministry

Richard L. Rath, Executive Director of St. John Lutheran School-Ocala, FL, has been named the Paul Lange Award Recipient for 2006.

This award annually recognizes an administrator of an Association of Lutheran Secondary Schools institution who "has an exemplary commitment to the educational ministry of Lutheran high schools." The special honor is "intended to be



Dr. Richard Rath

an encouragement to professional church leaders to model the ministry of Jesus Christ for colleagues, students, families and the church."

The award nomination letter for Rath closed with this accolade: "Each interaction with Mr. Rath always includes a call to seek the Lord and Scriptural encouragement. Administrators are often great leaders, masters of curriculum, and morale builders. In the case of Dick Rath, you can be sure that any group he leads, or is a part of, will be called back to Jesus and the goal of educational ministry."

Rath has dedicated 50 years to Lutheran education ministry, serving as a teacher at a variety of levels, headmaster, principal, executive director and director of development.

A 1956 graduate of Concordia University-Seward, Rath's first call was to Zion Lutheran-Bridgeport CT. He served first as a teacher and

then as the principal, and completed his Master of Science in Education degree at the University of Bridgeport.

In 1962, Rath moved to Malvern, NY, where for eight years he was teacher/principal at Grace Lutheran. In 1970, he received a call to be principal at Long Island Lutheran Middle & High School. He was named Executive Director in 1971 and served there until 1984.

From 1984 to 1990, Rath was the director at Zion Lutheran, a K-12 school in Deerfield Beach, FL. He returned to New York to serve as a consultant, then principal, at Chapel Lutheran School-Bronxville.

In 1999, Rath retired to Florida with the intention of working part time to set up a development office for St. John Lutheran Church and School-Ocala. When the principal left, he was asked to step in "for a time." After two years as principal, he

was named Executive Director. Five years later, he remains the school's lead administrator as well as the director of the public relations and development program for all of St. John Lutheran Church and School. St. John's *Forward in Faith* project has thus far raised more than \$1,000,000 for expansion of the secondary school and a new church plant.

Rath is active in church affairs, including governance as well as service, leadership in worship and Bible studies for all ages. He has taught in the high school and continues to build friends for St. John by visiting with other churches, civic clubs and business leaders.

Previous honors accorded Rath include 1998 New York Educator of the Year; Education Pioneer Award from New York State Department of Education; Gov. Carey Student Commission for Funding New York State

Schools, Public and Private/Parochial; and Kiwanis Club Distinguished Past President.

Rath has been married to his wife, Sandra, for 47 years; they have five children and seven grandchildren.

The Paul Lange Award was established by the ALSS in 1994 in honor of the many years of distinguished leadership of Dr. Paul Lange in the Lutheran high school movement. Lange was the first Principal and Superintendent of the Lutheran High School Association in St. Louis. He devoted his personal and professional life to Lutheran secondary education.

In 1962, Lange went to Valparaiso University to head its education department. He was the leader in establishing Valpo's partnership with ALSS. Lange passed away on September 1, 2003. □

Bob Ziegler Receives National Distinguished Principal Award

Bob Ziegler — principal of Saint Michael Lutheran School-Fort Myers, FL — has been honored as a National Distinguished Principal for 2006.

He was previously named the 2006 Lutheran Education Association Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Administrator.

The National Distinguished Principals Program was established in 1984 as an annual event to honor exemplary elementary and middle school principals who set the pace, character and quality of the education children receive during their early school years. The program is



Bob Ziegler

jointly sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals, in corporate partnership with VALIC.

One principal is chosen annually from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Principals representing private K-8 schools, Department of Defense Dependents' Schools, and the U.S. Department of State Overseas Schools are also recognized.

Ziegler, who has been at Saint Michael since 1999, has served Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod schools for 25 years. Previously he was with Peace-Fort Lauderdale; St. John-Good Thunder, MN; Mount Hope Redemption-Bloomington, MN; St. John-Ellisville, MO; and Concordia-Peoria, IL.

He earned a B.A. in education from Concordia University-Nebraska and an M.S. in administration from Mankato State University in Minnesota.

Ziegler's national service and honors include piloting National Lutheran School Accreditation, helping to establish the School Leadership Development project (in which he still serves) and being a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow.

The National Distinguished Principal Awards ceremony is scheduled for October 26-27 in Washington, DC. Planned events include special tours and activities as well as professional interaction among the honorees. The two-day celebration culminates in a formal awards banquet. □

Pews Available

Cushioned wood pews available, various lengths. Also kneelers; chancel chairs. Contact Prince of Peace-Douglasville, GA — 770-942-4681; email peace582@bellsouth.net. Pictures available upon request.

LCEF

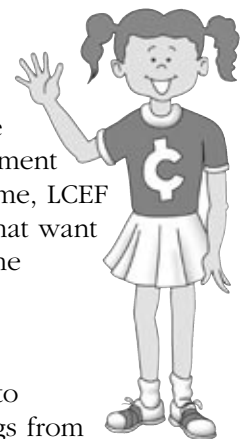
K.I.D.S.

Savings Stamp Program

Millicent and her friends enjoy showing kids a fun way to save money and help others share the Good News of Jesus Christ—all at the same time.



In the K.I.D.S. (Kids Into Discipleship & Stewardship) Program, children buy savings stamps at their school or church. When the stamp books are filled, they are sent to LCEF and become custodial investment accounts that earn interest! At the same time, LCEF loans this money to LCMS organizations that want to provide space and place for teaching the Gospel.



Faith-Building Activity Books

The K.I.D.S. program uses activity books to promote good stewardship of our blessings from God through Bible verses, stories and lessons. Other materials (all free from LCEF) include a setup booklet, poster, stickers, stamp books, and an order form.

Questions?

E-mail Millicent at kids@lcef.org and she will respond promptly!



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