



## For Immediate Release

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### Local Educator Susan Longmire Among Nation's Best K-8 Principals

Susan Longmire

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SHAWANO, WI—September 1, 2016—Susan Longmire, principal of St. James Lutheran School in Shawano, was selected as the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's 2016 National Distinguished Principal. The National Association of Elementary School Principals established the program in 1984 to recognize and celebrate elementary and middle-level principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and climate for the students, families, and staffs in their learning communities.

Longmire was nominated by the North Wisconsin District of the Missouri Synod and selected by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod through a national search process conducted by Terry Schmidt, director of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod School Ministry.

A graduate of Concordia University Chicago, Mrs. Longmire previously held the position of teacher at St. John's Lutheran School, Ellisville, Mo. and as teacher at St. James Lutheran School in Shawano, WI. She has served as principal of St. James Lutheran School since 2006.

"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."

In October, Longmire will travel to Washington, D.C., for two days of activities planned to honor and bring well-deserved recognition to the elementary and middle-level educators chosen by the states, the District of Columbia, plus private and overseas schools.

Criteria for selection of the principals 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.

Susan Longmire served as teacher and assistant principal before becoming principal of St. James Lutheran School eleven years ago. With an emphasis on integrated technology, Longmire collaborated on a parochial partnership with Sacred Heart Catholic School for a grant resulting in \$150,000 to improve technology and fund professional development. This collaboration benefitted both schools and set a positive example for the community. Longmire's leadership has changed the way teachers teach and students learn, with St. James classrooms now equipped with smart boards, document cameras, projectors, Chromebooks, and Nexus tablets, all maximized by a more robust wireless network. Longmire teaches a section of eighth grade math utilizing this technology to model 21<sup>st</sup> Century teaching and learning. After three years of Longmire's dedicated efforts, St. James was selected to participate in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program. This program provides funds to help the school become increasingly self-sufficient, allowing for the establishment of the St. James Endowment Fund, Adopt-a-Student Program, and Education Fund to support families in need of financial assistance. Longmire was named a Wisconsin Council of Religious & Independent Schools Principal of Distinction in 2007 and received the Herb Kohl Excellence in Leadership Award and a nomination to serve on the LCMS Board of Directors in 2016. She holds an Associate degree from St. Paul's College, a B.A. from Concordia University, Chicago, and a Master's in Education from Concordia University, Nebraska.

Longmire and her husband, Ken, live in Shawano, and have five children: Erin Longmire, 36, Ben Vogel 35, Drew Longmire 34, Elizabeth Forney 29 and Katherine Vogel 25.

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod maintains close ties with the metropolitan Washington, D.C.-based National Association of Elementary School Principals and its 20,000 members worldwide.