

Ralph Teske has accepted a Call to serve as Concordia Lutheran School's Fourth Grade Teacher.

Ralph Teske

I live in Peoria with my three daughters. My oldest Gretchen works for WMBD and is a graduate of Bradley University with a degree in Journalism. My middle child, Abigail, is a graduate of Monmouth College with a degree in Biopsychology. She hopes to attend graduate school to become a physician's assistant. My youngest is planning on attending St. Ambrose University and studying Psychology. My wife Michele and I were married for 30 years and she taught at Christ Lutheran for 32 years (31 in 1st grade) until she was called home by our Lord last summer.

I graduated from Concordia College in River Forest in 1989. I earned my master's degree from St. Xavier University Chicago in 2000. I taught and coached baseball, track, and basketball at Christ Lutheran School in Peoria for 30 years. I taught mainly 4th or 5th grade. I then went to Good Shepherd Pekin for 3 years and had a 6th grade homeroom and taught 5th-8th Social Studies as well as 5th and 6th Science and Religion. I also served as athletic director. I am pleased to be at Concordia where I will be able to assist the ministry here. It is my hope and prayer that I may be a benefit and a positive influence for Concordia Lutheran School.

Melissa Drozd has accepted a contract to serve as Concordia Lutheran School's Third Grade Teacher.

Melissa Drozd

I live with my husband, daughter, and two sons in Peoria. We are members of First United Methodist Church in Peoria. In my free time I enjoy reading, singing in the church choir, watching soccer and baseball, playing boardgames with my family, and traveling.

I graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a business degree and worked at Caterpillar in IT for two years before staying home with my children. When my youngest child started school, I began my career in education, first as a substitute teacher then as a teacher's aide for kindergarten through 6th grade students at public schools in the area. While completing my program for teacher certification I also taught 5th grade. It is my mission to meet each student where they are and help them on their path to become life-long learners and followers of Jesus Christ. I am so excited to be able to continue my career at Concordia and look forward to working and teaching in a Christian environment.