



ALL OF OUR SCHOOLS ARE OPEN!

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 FROM THE DIRECTOR
- 2 COMMUNITY PARTNERS
- 3 CLEF MEDALLION PROGRAM
- 4 INTRODUCING PRINCIPAL 360

- 4 GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION
- 5 VIRTUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA!
- 6 NEWS AND NOTES
- 8 GALA SAVE THE DATE!

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This school year is coming to a close quickly, and what a year it has been! Our schools, teachers, principals and all additional staff have worked "Above and Beyond" in order to continue quality education.

I cannot praise our educators enough for their dedication. Amazingly, all 22 schools in the CLEF network delivered safe, in-person learning to our 1800+ students. We have faced many challenges, but God's strength, our principals' guidance, and our teachers' passion gave us the endurance to weather the storm.

There have been lots of silver linings and blessings along the way. CLEF's Medallion Program has been

relaunched with the help of our new Director of Academic Excellence, Erika Jackson, and the devotion of Programs Coordinator, Nina Pope. We also unveiled Principal360, the first and only highly-focused leadership program for Lutheran School Principals. (See page 4 for more details!) Our dedicated staff has continued the exceptional work of special education, health and wellness programs, professional development for teachers and principals, and technology advancement.

All of these innovative expansions and continued programs are due to our faithful donors! With your constant support, we have survived and thrived. Your generosity is greatly

appreciated- Thank You!

Which is why we want to celebrate you, our students, and our teachers at our 2021 VIRTUAL Scholarship Gala on April 24th! We are excited to provide party packages to be delivered to your door with every ticket purchase. Dozens of donations equating to over \$25,000 has been donated for auction items already! There is something for everyone, and we couldn't be more pleased to "Party with a Purpose!"

In His Service,

Janet Klotz
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation is to empower urban Lutheran schools to deliver innovative, quality education in a Christian environment.

CLEF COMMUNITY PARTNERS



CLEF MEDALLION PROGRAM



"The inherent value of a parochial education is that it provides both the academic rigor and the moral compass necessary to meet the many challenges of modern life."

– Dean Buntrock, Longtime CLEF Supporter

CLEF and its school partners are on an exciting pathway to becoming Medallion Schools of Distinction. The Medallion program establishes a clear set of rigorous and measurable standards that define academic excellence and promote Christian values.

These initiatives create a process in which school leaders, working in partnership with CLEF, can demonstrate to their constituents that they are models of extraordinary educational excellence and Christian character development.

The Medallion School of Distinction is the next step in CLEF's comprehensive Pathways to Excellence program that stresses the importance of strong school leadership by the principal in helping to achieve overall school excellence.

"Thanks to the CLEF staff and board and all their partners for providing the opportunity for Chicago Lutheran schools to excel," says St. John's Principal Dan Green. "I am humbled to be a part of this initiative."

Student Support

Each student receives individual academic attention and instruction appropriate for their age and grade level. Students are given guidance and encouragement to fully prepare them to successfully advance in their studies, as well as in their life.

School Support

CLEF works with each school by providing educational resources and customized support every step of the way. Schools receive a financial

reward and promotional support for each badge completed. On becoming a Medallion School of Distinction, a school receives an additional financial reward, and an all-school celebration in recognition of its new status.

Watch upcoming newsletters and our social media channels for more updates as our schools achieve Medallion Badges of Distinction!

P R I N C I P A L



CHANGING THE TRAJECTORY OF LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY

In January 2021, CLEF launched Principal 360, the first and only leadership program of its kind. The success of Pathways to Excellence within the Chicagoland network prompted CLEF to pilot the program across Lutheran schools in the Midwest. Principal 360, created and reformatted for virtual delivery, empowers Lutheran School Principals as they sharpen every skill they need for every issue they face. Today's schools need 21st century platforms to regain equilibrium and remain sustainable. Lutheran school enrollment must reverse current trends and rise. Astute leaders will leverage new perspectives for mission and vision, curriculum, staff passion, market analysis, fundraising, and marketing. Who is best suited to command this new trajectory of success and brighter horizons? The Principal.

CLEF takes pride in launching the first professional development initiative that offers a comprehensive toolkit to help faith-based principals. Principal 360 is unlike traditional professional development or university-based programming. It is an online leadership program specifically designed for Lutheran school

Principal 360 will dynamically raise the bar in directed support to improve Lutheran schools from within.

leaders. Principals from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Missouri were selected to participate in the first round of Principal 360.

The highly-focused leadership program includes a full-year course taught by outstanding instructors from across the country. Every principal is provided a personal, seasoned leadership coach to guide and facilitate coursework and the completion of a strategic plan. Participation in the program also includes three in-person "Member Meet-Up" events. These specially designed events provide instructor-led course content, meaningful one-on-one time with coaches, and opportunities to deepen professional friendships among principals. Full-circle success for every member is at the forefront of Principal 360.

Principal 360 is a dynamic 21st century educational tapestry that weaves the best practices of the past with the evolving best practices of today. In a nutshell, Principal 360 is leadership program that listens, adapts, and acts. Principals from this program will not only gain the knowledge and leadership base, but through support, guidance and direction, become innovative thought leaders who transform the trajectory of their school.

HELP US SUPPORT MORE STUDENTS. GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION!

With 22 partner schools in our CLEF network, the need is always great.

Here are the different ways you can help CLEF provide scholarships, services, resources and educational programs:



Monthly Donation



Employer
Matching Gifts

thrivent

Thrivent Choice
Dollars



Amazon Smile



Donor Advised
Funds



Planned Giving
and Endowments



Securities, Stocks
or Mutual Funds



Invest in Kids*

*Individuals and corporations who donate through our designated Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), Empower Illinois, will receive a credit against their Illinois income tax liability equal to 75 percent of their donation.

DONATE TODAY! WWW.CLEFCHICAGO.ORG

RAISE YOUR PADDLES AND GLASSES! CLEF ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA



As we all have adjusted to life amid a pandemic, so has our annual Scholarship Gala. Last year, we sadly did not get to hold our in-person Gala at the Morton Arboretum. Our teachers desperately needed new resources (specifically technology devices for classrooms) and the need for student scholarships remained. Thankfully, our donors stepped up and gave over

\$213,000 to our Emergency Response Fund. This covered the proceeds that would have been raised at the Gala, and much more! Last spring, CLEF was able to give six immediate relief grants to CLEF network schools, along with forty-three teacher Dream Awards two months later. These would not be possible without the generous support of our donors.

The 2021 Scholarship Gala, "A Virtual Toast," will also be an adjustment, but a necessary one. Just as our schools have found innovative ways to deliver quality education this year, we too are practicing innovation. Similarly to Galas in the past, you can purchase tickets individually, for a couple, or for a group of ten. Before the Gala on April 24, 2021, you will receive a party kit to host your selected guests at your home. All ticket packages include a charcuterie board, a Pampered Chef Premium Cocktail Set, and everything to make the evening's cocktails for all your guests.

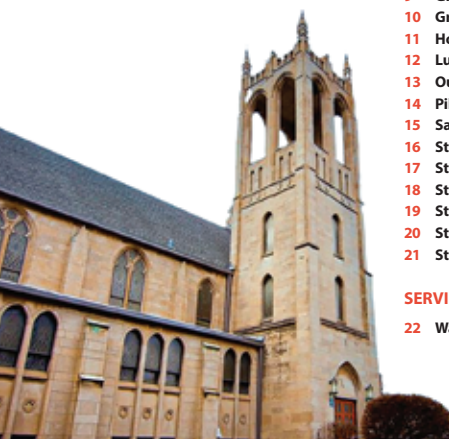
At the virtual Gala, live mixologists from unMuddled Bartending Company will teach attendees how to make

two wonderful cocktails or mocktails. The live auction and fast-paced paddle raise will follow. Additionally, our silent auction will be hosted online and open an entire week before the Gala begins. (You can view and bid on auction items at CLEF2021.givesmart.com.)

We hope you are able to join our "Party with a Purpose" on this exciting night!

**BUY TICKETS,
BID ON AUCTION ITEMS,
AND DONATE ONLINE:
CLEF2021.givesmart.com**

CLEF SCHOOLS 2021 DIRECTORY BY LOCATION



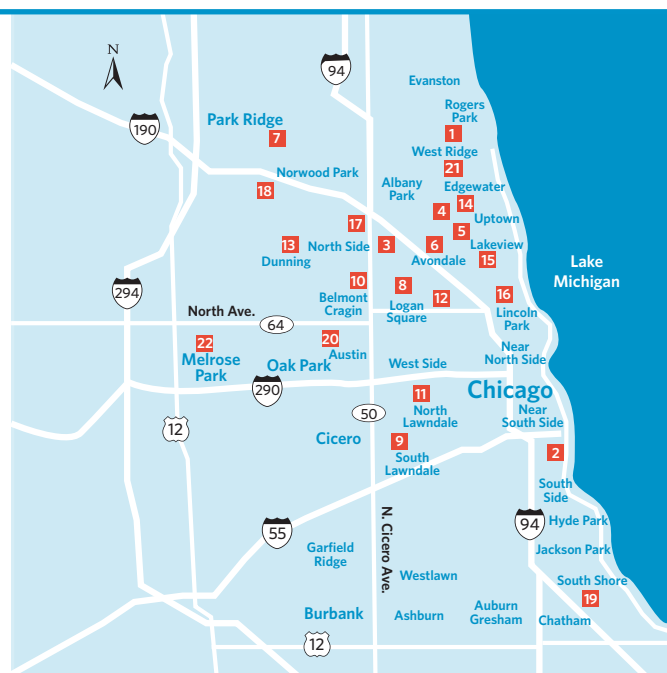
CLEF PRESCHOOLS AND GRADE SCHOOLS

- 1 Bethesda International Academy, 6803 N. Campbell Ave.
- 2 Christ the King Lutheran School, 3701 S. Lake Park Ave.
- 3 Concordia Day 3696 N. Milwaukee Ave.
- 4 Concordia Day 4809 N. Ravenswood Ave.
- 5 Concordia Place, 3855 N. Seeley Ave.
- 6 Concordia Place, 3300 N. Whipple St.
- 7 Edison Park Lutheran Preschool, 6626 N. Oliphant Ave.
- 8 Good Shepherd Christian Academy, 3740 W. Belden Ave.
- 9 Grace Christian Academy, 4106 W. 28th St.
- 10 Grace English Lutheran School, 2725 N. Laramie Ave.
- 11 Holy Family School, 3415 W. Arthington St.
- 12 Lutheran Day Nursery, 1802 N. Fairfield Ave.
- 13 Our Saviour Lutheran School, 7151 W. Cornelia Ave.
- 14 Pilgrim Lutheran School, 4300 N. Winchester Ave.
- 15 Saint Luke Academy, 1500 W. Belmont Ave.
- 16 St. James Lutheran School, 2101 N. Fremont St.
- 17 St. John's Lutheran School, 4939 W. Montrose Ave.
- 18 St. Paul Early Childhood Center, 5650 N. Canfield Ave.
- 19 St. Paul Lutheran School, 7621 S. Dorchester Ave.
- 20 St. Paul Lutheran School, 846 N. Menard Ave.
- 21 St. Philip Lutheran School, 2500 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

SERVING GRADES 6-12

- 22 Walther Christian Academy, 900 Chicago Ave, Melrose Park

Pictured: St. John's Lutheran School



NEWS AND NOTES

In the Midst of a Pandemic... A Success Story

By Cheryl Saiki, Special Ed. Coordinator

I started working with D. last year when he was in the fourth grade. He had moved to Chicago from another state and enrolled at Holy Family School. He could read aloud at grade level, but didn't understand what he had read. We worked on improving his vocabulary and reading comprehension. He was doing very well. Then the school building closed in March due to the pandemic.

Using contributions from CLEF's Special Education Fund, I was able to immediately continue my sessions with D. over remote learning. During our first sessions, we used FaceTime to complete schoolwork. In a couple of weeks, he was able to get a computer and I taught him how to log onto school sites and complete work online. After several sessions, he was adept at using a computer for his schoolwork. This occurred because of the Special Education Fund. The Chicago Public Schools did not give CLEF permission to use its IDEA money for special education services until three weeks before the end of the school year.

The Special Education Fund also enabled us to provide summer services for special education students so they could catch up with their peers. While D. spent the summer out of state with his mother, I continued virtual learning sessions with him. Even though he worked in a clothes closet so his little sisters wouldn't bother him, he made good progress in vocabulary and reading comprehension.

Both his mother and father repeatedly thanked me and are happy with their son's improvement. They said D. really loves Holy Family and, despite financial challenges, enrolled him there this year. I am excited to work with him some more and see his continued growth.



Keeping CLEF Schools Open for SAFE Learning

By Dr. Patricia Braun CLEF School Nurse Coordinator

The occurrence of COVID-19 pandemic has threatened the health of our communities, education, teachers, staff, students, and families. Our CLEF schools have worked hard to sustain educational goals for their students who often had to balance family obligations. Our schools have remained open, the majority in-person and in classrooms. Most CLEF schools offered remote or hybrid learning options as needed.

Opening schools generally does not significantly increase community transmission of COVID-19, particularly when guidance outlined by the World Health Organization (WHO),¹ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is followed. The lower risk of transmission of the virus by younger children and reported milder or moderate illness in this age group suggest the appropriateness of in-person instruction for primary and elementary grades. Along with colleagues in the field of education, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly advocates for in-person instruction for the health of children if it occurs in a safe environment. We all want to see children in our schools develop and grow to their potential.

The majority of our schools' staff have been vaccinated at this time. It is extremely important to build herd immunity and receive the vaccine when available. We must realize that a vaccine for children will be unlikely (or at least based on present data) until the very end of the school year (June).

The pandemic will end. Our CLEF schools and personnel have established and done a tremendous job in providing a safe, healthy environment in the school setting for educating. This can or will not be able to continue without school, parent, and community support. We ALL have the responsibility to give children hope and the best opportunity to learn to their potential in a safe, stable and healthy environment.

Adapted resources:

American Academy of Pediatrics

National School Nursing Association

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Illinois Public Health Department

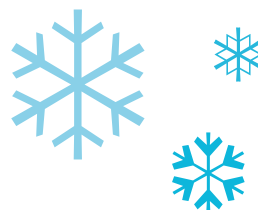
UNICEF World Health Organization (WHO)



Having a Magical Christmas Drive

Wrapped in CLEF blankets, enjoying candy canes and making the Christmas season festive, over 60 families participated in our first-ever "Magical Christmas Drive"! The drive was completed in conjunction with Morton Arboretum's Illumination on December 27th and offered spectacular views of thousands of Christmas lights from the safety and warmth of your car. It was important to gather our supporters, teachers, and staff together to celebrate Christmas. Like most everything else, we had to adapt to still enjoy this tradition.

The CLEF team, including Communications Coordinator Nicole Brennan, handed out Christmas CLEF swag and checked in each of the "sleighs" at Peace Lutheran Church in Lombard. The inaugural event featured an exclusive wine raffle won by Amanda Johnson-Szewc who happily started 2021 with three bottles of wine. CLEF Board Member, Paul Soderholm won our mini-Christmas tree raffle. Close to \$5,000 was raised for CLEF scholarships all while spreading Christmas cheer and keeping spirits bright.



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Party with a
Purpose!



2021 VIRTUAL
Scholarship Gala

SATURDAY APRIL 24TH

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