

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

William "Bill" Mattes

Bill Mattes was a veteran. He served his God, he served his family, and he served his country. He also served CLEF for over 25 years. On May 27th of this year Bill transitioned from his earthly life to a heavenly life with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Bill and the other founding fathers of CLEF used their faith and vision to turn a dream of providing a quality, Christian education for children into a reality that became Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation. That dream is alive and well today thanks to Bill and our current and past board members.

Bill was a finance man who came from the generation that believed in first planning the work and then working the plan. He knew that even the best plan needed financial support to succeed; one without the other was not realistic. For all the many generations of children touched by CLEF, that continues to be really Good News.

Bill was the epitome of a true servant-leader. He was faithful, intelligent, perceptive, honorable, kind, caring, and rock solid. Bill was a mentor to many and his word was his bond. A firm handshake closed many a deal, and his faith in God served as his lifelong guide. The Golden Rule was more than a rule, more than a concept, it was Bill's lifelong plan and he always worked the plan.

Today Bill is with the Divine Master Planner. He lived his beliefs and demonstrated his faith by sharing the Good News through his commitment to Lutheran education. As



a forgiven and saved Child of God, Bill deeply wanted other children and adults to experience this same forgiveness and salvation in their own lives.

His kindness, generosity, and concern for others was always part of his personal life plan and as we know, Bill always worked the plan.

Today we honor and remember a life well lived by our dear friend, Bill Mattes. He was a blessing and an inspiration to us and to countless others who had the

pleasure of knowing and working with him over the years.

Today, let us commit to following and working Bill's Good News plan. We believe this will bring great joy to Bill and is the best way we can honor his memory.

The work is still plentiful and the Master Plan is still perfect. Let us work our Father's plan while it is yet day. Bill would expect no less and we can do no more.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

CLEF BOARD

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Janet Klotz

Dear Friends,

I am always thankful that God grants us another year to tell others about His Good News, and fully trust that with His guidance, we are on the right path. As Martin Luther once said, "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." When we plant the seed of Good News, we may not always see the apple tree, but we know that His Spirit works through us to achieve His purpose.

At CLEF we continue our planning and planting with work on two important initiatives, our Strategic Plan and our Pathways to Excellence program. This work would not be possible without the dedication and funding of the Clarence and Marilyn Schawk family, The Christopher Family Foundation, and Dean and Rosemarie Buntrock.

Our new Strategic Plan, sponsored by The Christopher Family Foundation, drives everything we do and focuses on two major commitments: improving the quality and academic excellence of our schools, while reinforcing the Christian values and beliefs that are at the heart of all we do. Thanks to the work of our Board and our

partner, Davidoff Mission-Driven Business Strategy, CLEF has five strategic initiatives and a new mission statement: "to empower urban Lutheran schools to deliver innovative, quality education in a Christian environment." Our mission will be accomplished by "providing resources, consultative services, professional development opportunities, scholarships, and student enrichment opportunities to Chicago's Lutheran schools."

Our second major initiative, the three-year Pathways to Excellence program, helps implement our Strategic Plan by promoting academic excellence, principal leadership, and teacher professional development. This program is fully sponsored and supported by a generous gift from Dean and Rosemarie Buntrock, and encompasses their belief that academic excellence, coupled with Christian values, is the best gift we can give our students today and in the future.

Pathways to Excellence has energized our principals by providing access to training and resources that empower them to become more effective leaders in their schools, classrooms, and communities.

I especially want to thank Marilyn Schawk and her family for their 25 years of steadfast commitment, generous contributions, and much appreciated encouragement to myself and the Board, as CLEF has evolved and adapted to meet the challenges of urban Lutheran education. Over the years the Schawk family has generously given scholarships, upgraded school infrastructure and technology, underwritten teacher salaries, installed extra security, provided SMART Boards, iPads and many more items that have directly benefited our children, their families and our principals and teachers.

I also want to thank all of our community partners and donors, our principals, teachers and school staff, as well as CLEF's Board of Directors, officers and staff, for their dedication and hard work in providing and supporting Lutheran education for our students and their families.

When Good News is the fruit, the apple never falls far from the tree. At CLEF we have a lot of exciting and practical planting to do in 2018.

Blessings,

Janet Klotz
Executive Director

"Thank you CLEF for the gift of education. Your grant has ensured that my two children can continue to grow and foster in the community they have come to love." – CLEF School Parent

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

CLEF SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Chicago Sports Museum at Water Tower Place, Chicago

TEACHER RECOGNITION DINNER

Thursday, May 17, 2018

River Forest Country Club, Elmhurst

SCHOLAR BREAKFAST

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Walther Christian Academy, Melrose Park

NETWORKING CONFERENCE

Monday, August 13, 2018

Walther Christian Academy, Melrose Park



CLEF STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

VISION:

The Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation's vision is that children in Chicagoland have the opportunity to experience Christ's love and grace through a high quality, Christian-values based education in order to reach their potential and fulfill their vocation.

MISSION:

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

PRINCIPLES:

• Integrity • Empowerment • Excellence • Stewardship

VALUES:

• Caring • Grace • Service • Holistic Ministry • Inclusiveness

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Foster Leadership and Professional Development in Schools

- ✓ Current Professional Development Programs
- ✓ Leadership Training Program for Principals and Teachers
- ✓ Development Program for School Boards and Pastors

Improve the Quality of Lutheran Education in Chicagoland

- ✓ Medallion Program
- ✓ Teacher and Leader Recruitment, Training, and Retention
- ✓ Academic Improvement
- ✓ Facilities Improvement
- ✓ Reinforcing Christian Values

Improve the Visibility and Reputation of Lutheran Education in Chicago

- ✓ Branding & Marketing of CLEF
- ✓ Positioning Lutheran Education
- ✓ Branding & Marketing CLEF Schools

Build and Leverage Partnerships

- ✓ Academic Institutions
- ✓ Business Community
- ✓ Foundations
- ✓ Congregation & Faith-Based Organizations
- ✓ Alumni Relationships
- ✓ Government & Elected Officials

Operate as a Sustainable and Responsible Steward

- ✓ Fundraising and Development
- ✓ Board Development
- ✓ Infrastructure, Capacity, and Operations
- ✓ Programs and Services

Thank you to our Community Partner Davidoff Mission-Driven Business Strategy for working with us to create our new Strategic Plan.

PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE

LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS



Lutheran schools today face complex challenges and exciting opportunities. For schools to be successful, our principals and teachers must be equipped to meet the demands of these changing times. CLEF is committed to supporting our Lutheran principals and teachers by providing training and resources to help them enhance their leadership skills, becoming more effective leaders in their schools, classrooms, and communities.

Through the very generous support of Dean and Rosemarie Buntrock, CLEF launched its “Pathways to Excellence” quality initiative. This leadership training program for CLEF principals and teachers is designed to build the school management, classroom management and leadership skills necessary to foster and maintain sustainable, high-quality Lutheran educational environments. Increased enrollment in Chicagoland Lutheran schools is expected to be a key outcome of the Pathways program. CLEF has benefited from collaboration with two of our Community Partners to execute this plan – Concordia University Chicago and Davidoff Mission-Driven Business Strategy.

Pathways to Excellence is a three-year leadership training and skill-building program. During the first year, principals participated in a 10-month curriculum with content geared towards teaching practical skills necessary to generate actionable plans for their schools. The culmination of the first year was completion of a school strategic plan focused on enhancing quality and reaching school improvement goals. Years two and three focus on intensive mentoring and coaching with a team of education experts who are assisting teachers and leaders in implementing their plans.

Pathways to Excellence focuses on three main initiatives:

- **Strategic Strength & Management:** including best practices for strategy, operations, administration, marketing, community engagement, fundraising, enrollment, facilities and other knowledge areas essential to running a school, or managing a classroom
- **Educational Best Practices:** covering topics such as curriculum development, academic standards, student achievement, professional development and other themes specific to maintaining a high-quality educational experience
- **Leadership & Interpersonal Empowerment:** focusing on “soft skills” for leaders such as building rapport, principles of leadership, communication styles, personality styles, social and emotional intelligence, personal and organizational transformation

The Pathways to Excellence program features:

- Classroom Instruction: Monthly classroom instruction for principals and regular literacy-based classroom instruction for teachers
- Individualized coaching/mentoring in and outside of the classroom for principals and teachers
- Applied assignments that build immediate skills
- Peer-to-peer learning
- Online community/classroom portal
- Personalized assessments for each participant and his/her school
- Quarterly progress reports
- Access to expert support and coaching
- Access to an instructional technology coach
- Access to a digital media expert to support enrollment and marketing at the school level
- Access to a special education coordinator

The Pathways to Excellence program benefits our schools through:

- Customized strategic improvement plan
- Pathways to improving overall school quality and success
- Individualized development plan
- Practical knowledge that can be applied immediately
- Enhanced leadership and classroom skills
- Eligibility for a stipend upon completion of the program
- Achievement of, or significant progress towards, standards of excellence in high-quality, Christian values-based education

Thank you to our Community Partner Concordia University Chicago for their help with this initiative. CLEF and Concordia have many other partnerships as well:

*Pathways to Excellence
College of Arts & Science Nursing Collaboration
Center for Literacy: Curriculum Series
Networking Conference
Academy of Continuing Professional Education
Literacy Methods Course: Field Experience*



COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAM

PROMOTE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: PARTNER WITH CLEF

Community Partners assist CLEF in carrying out its mission. Sponsorship of a cause, such as CLEF, allies a company with its customers, employees and the communities in which it does business. The spirit of the Community Partners Program is to build mutually beneficial and rewarding relationships.

The trend in sponsorship leans toward creating long-term integrated strategic alliances. Support Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation while adding value to your company's marketing and brand-building efforts.

How you can partner with us:

Program Dollars

Working capital to support CLEF's programs.

In-Kind Resources

Budget-relieving products and services needed to run specific programs and/or operations.

Marketing & Advertising Support

Blue-chip advertising opportunities for CLEF to share its mission and programs, thereby enabling CLEF to increase visibility and donations.

Liaisons

Commitment to provide introductions to potential partners, vendors and colleagues who may become additional sponsors and/or supporters.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

AQUEITY®
We're on top of IT



LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER CHICAGO



Phillips Security Consulting



CLEF SCHOOLS PROFILE



● The Core of Grace Christian Academy



Grace Christian Academy has been serving the students and families of Chicago's Little Village area for over 120 years. Grace's mission is to prepare students for success in high school, college, and beyond, raising them up to be future Christian leaders in service

to God and their communities.

In its continued mission to prepare students for success, Grace Christian, through CLEF initiatives, is armed with the latest technology to aid children in their studies. Every student attending Grace has access to a Google Chromebook as a supplemental learning tool for in-class instruction. Students also use iPads to access their eSpark Learning program, which provides ongoing academic support at their individual levels. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive SMART Board to facilitate collaborative learning. Principal Carlo Giannotta stated teachers and students are "excited and very pleased" with the technology and are looking for innovative ways to incorporate new devices into the classroom. The school is also blessed by longstanding support from the Perkins Malo Hunter Foundation and its commitment to urban education. Generous financial assistance from Perkins has provided Grace with an instructional coach, as well as a scholarship fund, keeping tuition affordable for Grace families.

Grace Christian has no Ds in their grading system, only As, Bs, Cs, and Fs. The school wants to instill a higher level of work ethic and better studying habits. Having a stricter grade scale pushes students for even higher excellence and teaches them the valuable lesson of capitalizing on the opportunities given to them. Seventy percent of Grace Christian Academy's students made the honor roll this past quarter. In addition to a strong academic program, Grace offers many extra-curriculars for their students. These include athletic teams (volleyball, basketball and track), a band program (grades 4-8), The Grace Notes Choir, Drama Club (grades K-8) and Girls on the Run, a curriculum-based program to inspire girls to be healthy and confident while creatively involving running in each lesson.

Grace Christian Academy prides itself on being family oriented. Principal Giannotta stated, "The strength of our school is the community." He went on to say that "Eighty-five percent of our students come from Hispanic families. The very essence of Hispanic culture is the importance of family. Our staff does everything in our power to emulate such important traits and values cultivating our students to develop and thrive."

Find out more on Grace's newly revamped website at gcchicago.org

TWO CLEF PRINCIPALS ARE VAN LUNEN FELLOWS

The Van Lunen Center for Executive Management in Christian Schools at Calvin College was created to provide top-notch management education for Christian schools. Each year up to 24 heads of Christian schools throughout the world meet to foster and grow their executive skills. Two CLEF principals were selected as fellows. Dr. Robyn Jacks-DuBose of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran School on Dorchester and Mr. Carlo Giannotta of Grace Christian Academy participated in this year-long initiative.

The Van Lunen Fellows program launched with a conference that brought together twenty-four individuals whose only commonality was their roles as leaders of Christian schools. By the end of the week, they transformed into twenty-four colleagues who worshiped together, commiserated with each other, revitalized one another and developed lasting relationships. The five days of intensive training focused on effective school management, and covered everything from school culture to being visionaries in strategic planning. It was a week-long discussion of Christian values, the uniqueness of Christian schools and reflection on best practices. "The Van Lunen Program helped me to develop my strengths and identify areas of improvement. It was an uplifting experience," said Dr. Jacks-DuBose.

During the conference, school leaders were invited to participate in a question and answer forum with a group of four donors. After the session a donor challenged the Fellows to record a one-minute video about their school and what they were most passionate about. Twenty out of the 24 accepted the challenge and recorded their videos later that same afternoon. We are delighted to share that when the results were announced the following morning, CLEF principal Dr. Jacks-DuBose was awarded \$5,000 for her school.

Mr. Giannotta and Dr. Jacks-DuBose continued with the program throughout the year including in-person collaboration and development of school-specific strategic plans which they presented in July. CLEF extends our thanks to our Chairman Jay Christopher for sponsoring such a wonderful opportunity for these two principals and their school communities.



SPREADING CHRIST THROUGHOUT THE CITY



CLEF PRESCHOOLS AND GRADE SCHOOLS

- 1 **Bethesda International Academy**, 6803 N. Campbell Ave, Chicago
- 2 **Christ the King Lutheran School**, 3701 S. Lake Park Ave, Chicago
- 3 **Concordia Place**, 3855 N. Seeley Ave, Chicago
- 4 **Concordia Place**, 3300 N. Whipple St, Chicago
- 5 **Edison Park Lutheran Preschool**, 6626 N. Oliphant Ave, Chicago
- 6 **Gloria Dei Lutheran School**, 5259 S. Major Ave, Chicago
- 7 **Good Shepherd Christian Academy**, 3740 W. Belden Ave, Chicago
- 8 **Grace Christian Academy**, 4106 W. 28th St, Chicago
- 9 **Grace English Lutheran School**, 2725 N. Laramie Ave, Chicago
- 10 **Holy Family School**, 3415 W. Arthington St, Chicago
- 11 **Little Learners Academy**, 3415 W. Arthington St, Chicago
- 12 **Lutheran Day Nursery**, 1802 N. Fairfield Ave, Chicago
- 13 **Our Saviour Lutheran School**, 7151 W. Cornelia Ave, Chicago
- 14 **Pilgrim Lutheran School**, 4300 N. Winchester Ave, Chicago
- 15 **Saint Luke Academy**, 1500 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago
- 16 **St. James Lutheran School**, 2101 N. Fremont St, Chicago
- 17 **St. John's Lutheran School**, 4939 W. Montrose Ave, Chicago
- 18 **St. Paul Lutheran School**, 5650 N. Canfield Ave, Chicago
- 19 **St. Paul Lutheran School**, 7621 S. Dorchester Ave, Chicago
- 20 **St. Paul Lutheran School**, 846 N. Menard Ave, Chicago
- 21 **St. Philip Lutheran School**, 2500 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago

SERVING GRADES 6-12

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

 **Featured School**



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER: ROLAND K. FILIPPI

CLEF is pleased to welcome its newest board member, Roland Filippi, who brings extensive business, legal and leadership experience from his career

in international business. He is a proud graduate of two Chicago Lutheran Schools, St. John's and Luther High School North. He is also a graduate of Augustana College (IL) where he majored in history and political science, and The John Marshall Law School in Chicago where he obtained the degree of Juris Doctor.

Roland began his legal career as a trial attorney with a law firm in Chicago, and later worked as a corporate attorney for Standard Oil Company, Amoco Corporation and BP, plc. Through the years he assumed various leadership positions at Amoco and BP including that of Associate General Counsel (Corporate) and Regional General Counsel (Western Hemisphere). Prior to retiring from BP, he held overall accountability for the legal function's U.S. specialist practice teams. In that role, he managed a team of 90 attorneys and was a member of BP Legal's global executive team.

He is currently in private practice with Roland K. Filippi, P.C., focused on dispute resolution, and is also president of Linder Street Realty Investment LLC, a private real estate investment and property management firm.

Roland and his wife Karen reside in the northwest suburbs. They have been married 39 years, and have been blessed with two children and four grandchildren. His hobbies include babysitting his grandchildren and working on classic cars.

What inspired you to join the CLEF board?

Having previously served on a school board, being aware of the challenges facing our Lutheran schools, and having observed the tremendous impact CLEF has on sustaining and strengthening these schools, I am honored to join such an excellent organization. I grew up as a baby boomer in Chicago and was fortunate to attend two large, vibrant Lutheran schools. The high quality, Christ-centered education that I received was transformational; it shaped who I became and served as the foundation for a successful career and a wonderful life. Contributing to CLEF's mission of delivering that same experience and opportunity for today's young students is a privilege.

What do you hope for Lutheran Schools?

Continuous improvement. Our schools operate in a competitive marketplace where parents and students have choices. Chicagoland's Lutheran schools must have the best leaders and teachers, the best educational offer, and the best performance. If our schools are the best, they will consistently win in the marketplace by growing enrollment organically, managing resources effectively and strategically, and bringing children and youth to know God who makes everything possible.

"The high quality, Christ-centered education that I received was transformational; it shaped who I became and served as the foundation for a successful career." – Roland Filippi

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DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Please email clef@clefchicago.org to be added to our electronic communications list.

A young girl with brown hair in pigtails, wearing a white shirt and a purple backpack, is shown in a thinking pose against a black chalkboard background. A large thought bubble above her head contains the text 'WHERE CAN I FIND OUT ALL OF CLEF'S LATEST NEWS?'. Below the thought bubble are four social media icons in rounded rectangular buttons: Facebook (@CLEFCHICAGO), Twitter (@CLEFCHICAGO), YouTube (BIT.LY/CLEFYOUTUBE), and Instagram (@CLEFCHICAGO).