

CLEF NOTES

FALL 2014

The Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation

CLEF CHICAGOLAND LUTHERAN
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



LEARNING • GOOD NEWS • FOR LIFE

www.clefchicago.com

Amazing Grace



Amazing Life

CLARENCE W. SCHAWK

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me ...
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind, but now, I see.*

Clarence W. Schawk, one of the founding members of CLEF, was called to eternal rest this fall. In 1993, he and a number of fellow Lutherans, all with a strong belief in the virtues and values of a Lutheran education, founded CLEF. Clarence was a man of strong faith and strong actions. He lived his faith and trusted his God to guide his path. To paraphrase Proverbs 22:6; he believed that when you teach a child to choose the right path, he will not depart from it when he is older.

*'Twas Grace that taught ... my heart to fear. And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear ... the hour I first believed.*

Clarence believed there was never a problem, no matter how difficult, that could not be conquered by faith and faithfulness to his loving God. His wish and fervent goal was to provide an opportunity for a quality Christian education to as many children as possible.

*Through many dangers, toils and snares ... we have already come.
'Twas Grace that brought us safe thus far ... and Grace will lead us home.*

His framework for life was simple and dynamic; faith, family, and work. God first, family second and business third. Clarence was a dear friend, a mentor to many, and a true life-changing force. He lived his faith every day.

*The Lord has promised good to me ... His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be ... as long as life endures.*

After working with Clarence for the two past years, I now understand what living life with a servant's heart really means. It means a lifetime of commitment to serving others with an open heart and an open mind - to daily seeing opportunities to demonstrate our faith through our actions. As Matthew implores us, "Let your light so shine that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

*When we've been here ten thousand years ... bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise ... then when we've first begun.*

Clarence was a Marine. A man of faith. A man of action. A man of endless energy. A man of endless ideas. A man with a passion for serving others. If the greatest act of courage is to love, then Clarence was the most courageous man I have ever known. He loved his God. He loved his family. He loved his work. He loved his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren and all the children in the CLEF schools.

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me ...
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind, but now, I see.*

Semper Fidelis, Clarence. You were always faithful, always loyal. Rest assured my dear friend that CLEF will faithfully carry on your work of providing children with Learning - Good News - For Life. It is an honor and a privilege to carry on this mission in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ until we meet again.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

CLEF's message, *Learning – Good News – For Life* means that learning God's Word often begins in the classroom and can guide us throughout our lifetime. There is no better news than this, and I am thankful for the support and encouragement from all our donors. Let there be no doubt in your minds that your contributions in all phases of our mission have made a difference, and will have a lasting impact in the lives of many children and adults. The very best day of our lives is when we first learn about Jesus.

In the words of Charles Dickens, "It was the best of times and the worst of times." The good news is that nine of our CLEF grade schools have increased

enrollment. The temporal bad news, but the eternal good news, is that one of our beloved founders, Clarence W. Schawk, is now in heaven. He passed away this fall but his legacy will live on. He was passionate in his love and support of Lutheran education, and will be greatly missed by all who knew and worked with him. Clarence was a man of faith and action. His commitment and enthusiasm for Christian education was inspiring and contagious. Please take a moment to read a tribute to him in this issue.

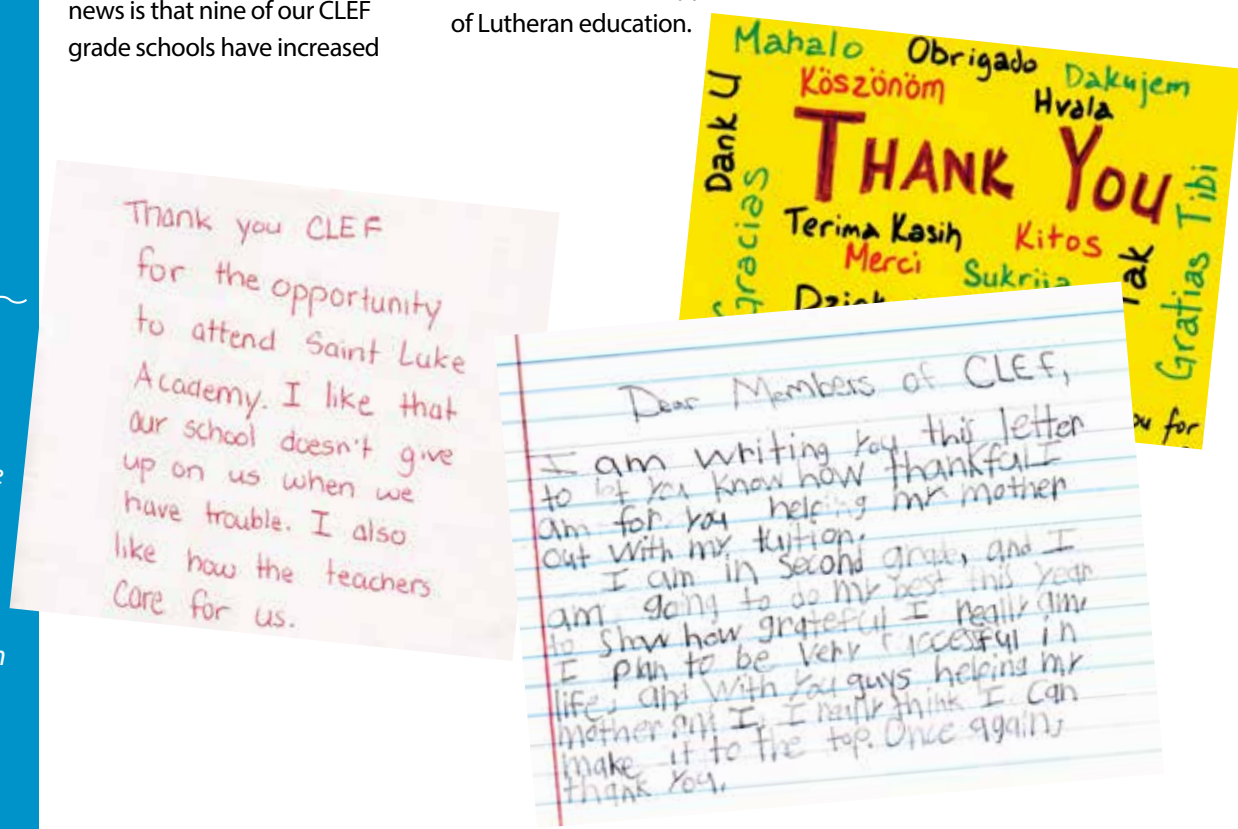
I would like to thank all of our donors, supporting foundations and CLEF board members for their unceasing time and talents in support of Lutheran education.

With the expansion of our blended learning program, and technology and security upgrades at many campuses, we have much to celebrate. Many people have supported this vision, and I want to acknowledge and praise those serving at the frontlines of this mission – the loving, caring and courageous principals, teachers and staff of our schools. CLEF is thankful for your dedication and demonstration of your faith through your actions every single day.

Blessings,

Janet Klotz

Executive Director



OUR MISSION

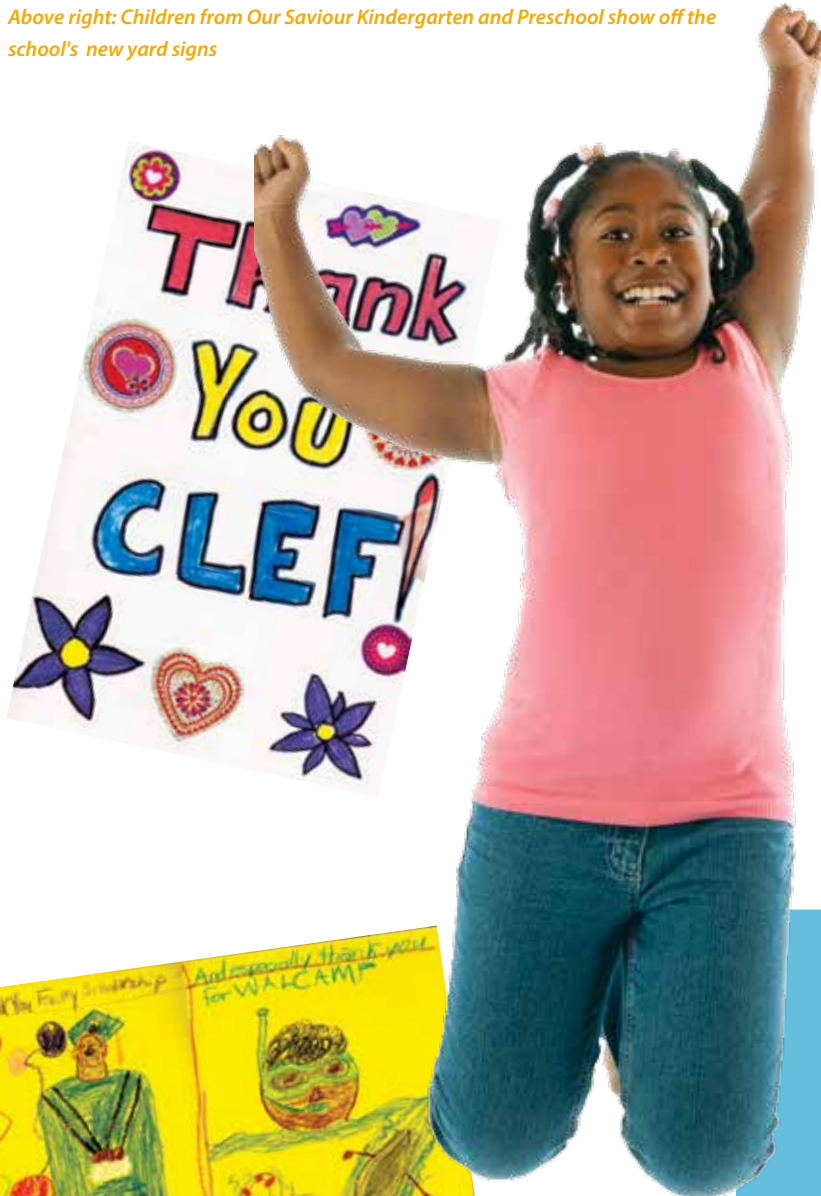
Partnering with Chicago's Lutheran schools to ensure that every child in Chicago has the opportunity to experience Christ's love through a quality Christian education.



Above: Two students from Holy Family celebrating at chapel.



Above right: Children from Our Saviour Kindergarten and Preschool show off the school's new yard signs



THE SECRET IS OUT

CLEF schools offer a quality Christian education in a safe and loving environment. However, many of these schools are their neighborhoods' best kept secrets. It is a balancing act on how best to allocate resources between recruiting new students and providing services to existing students. This summer, CLEF partnered with our schools to raise visibility by developing a branded advertising campaign. Marketing pieces which featured student images and individual school information were developed. Schools selected mediums such as lawn signs, street pole banners, bus benches and billboards that were best suited to their neighborhoods. Each piece denoted that the school was supported by Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation, strengthening the Lutheran brand in Chicago. CLEF is pleased with the success of the campaign. Schools reported an increase in phone calls, visits, and enrollment by families that had seen school advertising pieces. In addition to the individual school campaigns, CLEF also received funds to market who we are and what we do through an ad in the 2014 Chicago Bear's Yearbook, which can be purchased in bookstores throughout the city as well as at all Bear's home games. THANK YOU to The Schawk Foundation for underwriting this campaign.

SAVE THE DATES!

CLEF Anniversary Gala
April 18, 2015 Brookfield Zoo

CLEF Teacher Recognition Dinner
May 7, 2015 Maggiano's, Oak Brook

GOOD NEWS REPORT



PERSONALIZED LEARNING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

How much growth could a student achieve if he received instruction customized specifically for him? How can we make learning more engaging? These are two key concepts driving a shift to blended learning spearheaded by CLEF Educational Consultants Dr. Steven Gerner and Dave Maring. Blended learning leverages technology to complement traditional face-to-face classroom instruction. While a teacher works individually or in small groups with students, other students use programs such as the eSpark Learning System or iReady to complete activities specific to their individual learning goals.

This year, CLEF schools implemented Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing system-wide. These computer based assessments are administered three times yearly, and provide instructors with immediate feedback on areas where students may need additional help. They also identify opportunities for enrichment for students who may have already mastered their typical grade level material.

Using MAP test results, eSpark is able to identify specific learning goals for each student. eSpark then develops a customized learning quest to help the student achieve mastery of a particular concept. Skills are practiced and reinforced through various educational apps. Progress is measured by comparing the results of pre and post tests. This interactive learning, achieved through use of iPads, is fun and engaging for the students, allows them to work at their own pace, and delivers highly targeted help on precisely the topics that a particular student needs. Real-time feedback on progress and success is available for instructors.

To further enhance our blended learning classrooms, CLEF's 2014-2015 professional development series will focus on using technology to provide differentiated instruction. iPads and specialized computer programs are simply tools. This series will address the data available from the various online learning programs, and how teachers can use it to guide their traditional classroom instruction as well.

If you would like to see blended learning in action, please contact the CLEF office to schedule a school visit.



GOODBYE, HELLO



Mrs. Dawn Robinson has joined CLEF's staff as CPS Benefits Coordinator. Dawn will serve as a liaison between CLEF schools and the Chicago Public School system, and advocate on behalf of our teachers and students. She replaces Sandy Wackenhuth. Thank you Sandy for your passion and dedication, with over forty years of service to Lutheran

education, first as teacher, then principal, then CLEF Education Coordinator. Your commitment to Chicago's Lutheran school children is truly inspirational!

Private schools save taxpayers many millions of dollars by educating students who would otherwise be served by the public school system. However, both educators and students are still entitled to certain funds under federal Title programs and the individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA). **Last year alone this amounted to \$963,000 for Chicago's Lutheran schools.**

Dawn will help navigate the various requirements and paperwork necessary to access funds for teacher professional development, additional instruction for students who live in poverty or are not native English speakers, and services for students who have learning or physical challenges that require extra help. We are very grateful to Sandy for her passionate advocacy on behalf of our schools and students, and for creating an excellent organization system and well supported transition for Dawn.

*“Thank you for letting me stay at my school.
I love my school and my teachers and my friends!
And, I love you, too!” – CLEF School Student*

Pat loves her job so much she designed her own wheel cover.



THE NURSE IS IN



The gift of health is an amazing blessing. A grant from The Baxter International Foundation made it possible for CLEF to launch our school healthy ministry last school year. This program is led by Patricia Braun, DNSc, MSN, CPNP, PMHS, RNc. Pat's extensive career has included hospital administration, publications in medical journals, and direct care of pediatric patients. In addition to

her work for CLEF, Pat is assistant professor of pediatrics in the graduate school of nursing at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. She is also a life-long learner, recently receiving her Board Certification as a Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist.

Pat works primarily with eight CLEF schools. She began her role by reviewing school health policies and procedures, as well as the first aid and medical supplies on hand. Pat also conducted needs assessments by surveying staff and parents. Through generous funding from the Thrivent Neighbors in Need program, CLEF was able to provide much needed medical supplies to the schools. A Wheat Ridge Ministries Joshua Grant enabled us to place Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in three schools.

Pat had conducted multiple first aid and CPR training sessions to prepare school staff for medical emergencies. She is performing vision and hearing screenings for students, and providing education to students and families centered around monthly themes such as hand washing and heart health. The nurse also serves as a resource to address concerns for students and staff with acute or chronic health conditions.

FOCUS ON LITERACY

CLEF has partnered with Concordia University Chicago and Big Shoulders Fund to enhance literacy instruction at Grace Christian Academy and Lutheran Unity East. The Literacy Instruction for the Negotiation of Knowledge (LLINK) program is funded by a grant from The Searle Funds at Chicago Community Trust, and will continue for five years.

Literacy is the foundation of learning. If a student struggles to understand text, learning across all subject areas is affected. This program will take a three pronged approach to improving literacy, focusing on vocabulary, close reading, and purposeful talk. Students will have rich and varied language experience, receive instruction in word learning strategies, critically examine text through repeat reading, support answers to questions by citing evidence in the text, and engage in meaningful in-depth discussion about the text.

Concordia University professors will serve as coaches, observing and supporting classroom teachers on a weekly basis. Teachers will receive extensive professional development opportunities, and the chance to collaborate with instructors in seven other schools throughout the city. Eventually, each school will identify a teacher to serve as a literacy leader. This leader will guide literacy instruction at their own school and serve as a mentor and coach to the other teachers in the school.



This just in... The G.A. Ackermann Memorial Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee has granted CLEF funds to expand our school nursing program to serve even more schools.

CLEF SCHOOLS PROFILE



● Spotlight on St. John's

St. John's Lutheran School, located on the city's north side, was founded in 1876. St. John's is affectionately known as the school with the bowling alley in the basement – built in 1930 and still in use today.

Educating students from preschool through high school prep, St. John's has a rigorous curriculum focused on service learning. Each month fifth graders perform skits and songs and play games with local nursing home residents. High school prep students do a variety of service projects as part of their religion curriculum. Nearly half of St. John's graduates continue their education in parochial high schools, and over 98% of graduates attend high schools with track records of college placement – parochial, charter, selective enrollment, and magnet schools. Under the leadership of Principal Douglas Markworth, enrollment is on an upswing. The school added thirty students this year, and now shares the Gospel with 190 students.

The school's computer lab and network of SMART Boards offer great opportunities to integrate technology into instruction. Music is also part of the daily experience. Voices are lifted in song and praise through music programs funded in part by a grant from The Wurlitzer Foundation.

The school benefits from the dedicated support of a large team of parent volunteers. Through this group, St. John's offers many extracurricular activities including athletic leagues, Lego, dance, chess, comic, art, bowling, craft, and woodworking clubs.



● The Good News in Early Childhood Education

For over 100 years Lutheran Day Nursery & Early Childhood Center has been serving families in Chicago's Logan Square, West Town and Humboldt Park communities. The school's mission is to promote and improve the quality of life for families by providing safe, child-directed, certified and faith-based child care and early childhood education.

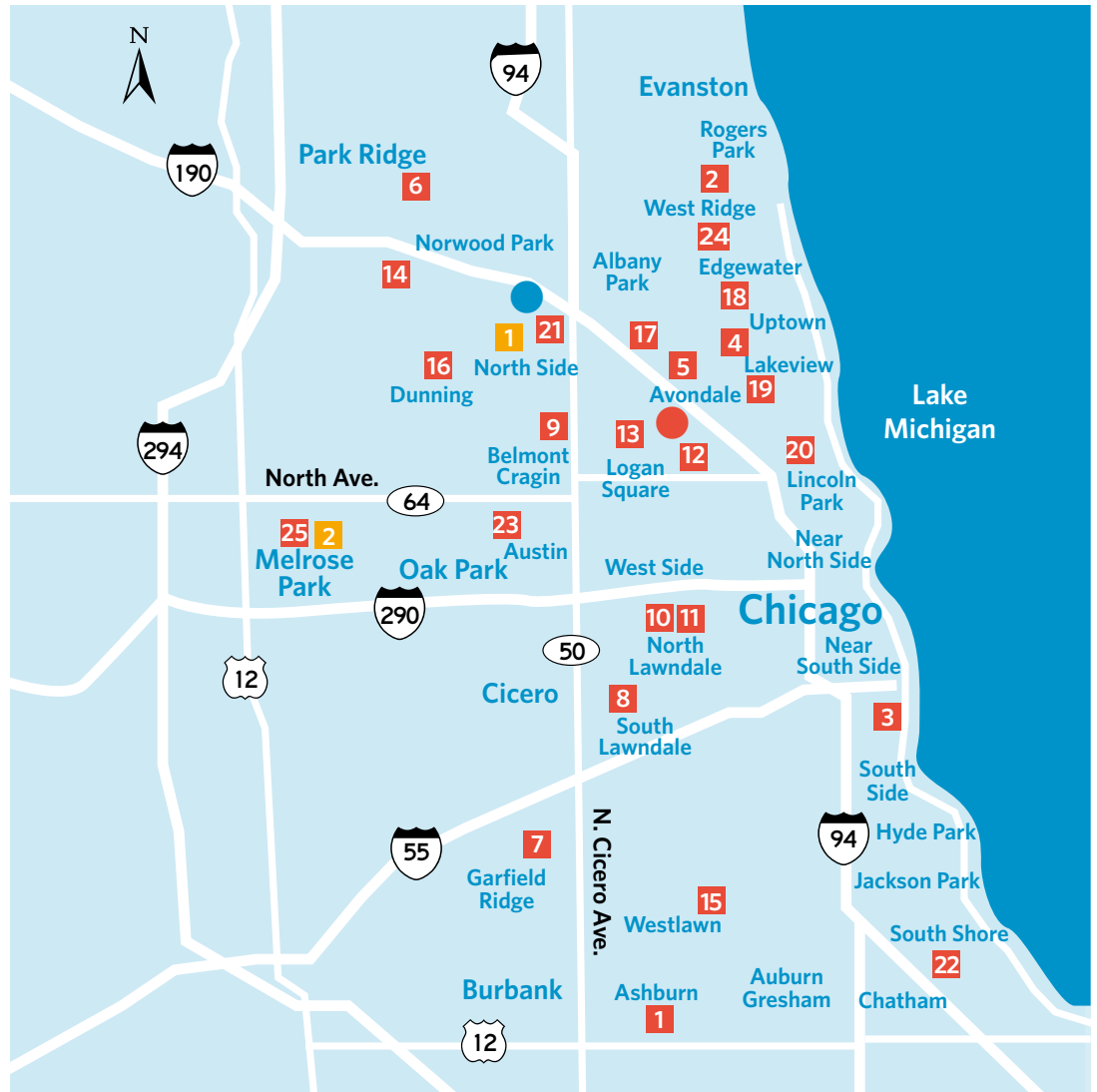
Children learn best by hands-on exploration of the world around them. In October the preschoolers, along with thousands of people throughout the U.S., participated in the Jumpstart Read for the Record challenge for the largest shared reading experience. Children read the book "Bunny Cakes" by Rosemary Wells. Afterwards, they compiled grocery lists from newspaper ads and then baked their own bunny rainbow cakes. The children also took a field trip to the pumpkin farm and went apple picking, then enjoyed their Annual Fall Festival with games, treats and fellowship.

Through a partnership with Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Education Center, CLEF and Lutheran Day, the students are able to dance, sing, and laugh with the Music Together® curriculum. Last winter Mrs. Roberta Wentling of Tiny Toes Music dreamed about how to best share her love of music with others. She leads Music Together® classes at Zion Early Childhood Education Center, and had a wish to share this program with another school where families may not be as fortunate. Roberta and volunteers at Zion hosted a benefit concert and auction to raise funds to bring the Music Together® program to Lutheran Day. The children and their families now sing, dance, and play instruments weekly with this program in a fun and interactive way, also practicing language and motor skills and cooperation with others. We are grateful for the opportunities such partnerships provide.

SPREADING CHRIST THROUGHOUT THE CITY

"I hope that one day I will be able to emulate your generosity by paying it forward to another family in need."

– CLEF School Parent



- CLEF High Schools
- CLEF Preschools and Grade Schools

- 1 Luther North College Prep**, 5700 W. Berteau Ave, Chicago
- 2 Walther Christian Academy**, 900 Chicago Ave, Melrose Park

- 1 Ashburn Lutheran School**, 3345 W. 83rd Street, Chicago
- 2 Bethesda International Academy**, 6803 N. Campbell Ave, Chicago
- 3 Christ the King Lutheran School**, 3701 S. Lake Park Ave, Chicago
- 4 Concordia Place**, 3855 N. Seeley Ave, Chicago
- 5 Concordia Place**, 3300 N. Whipple St, Chicago
- 6 Edison Park Lutheran Preschool**, 6626 N. Oliphant Ave, Chicago
- 7 Gloria Dei Lutheran School**, 5259 S. Major 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 Lutheran Unity East**, 3740 W. Belden Ave, Chicago
- 14 Lutheran Unity West**, 5650 N. Canfield Ave, Chicago
- 15 New Hope School**, 6416 S. Washtenaw Ave, Chicago
- 16 Our Saviour Lutheran School**, 7151 W. Cornelia Ave, Chicago
- 17 Park View Lutheran School**, 3919 N. Monticello Ave, Chicago
- 18 Pilgrim Lutheran School**, 4300 N. Winchester Ave, Chicago
- 19 Saint Luke Academy**, 1500 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago
- 20 St. James Lutheran School**, 2101 N. Fremont St, Chicago
- 21 St. John's Lutheran School**, 4939 W. Montrose Ave, Chicago
- 22 St. Paul Lutheran School**, 7621 S. Dorchester Ave, Chicago
- 23 St. Paul Lutheran School**, 846 N. Menard Ave, Chicago
- 24 St. Philip Lutheran School**, 2500 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago
- 25 Walther Christian Academy**, 1025 W. Lake St, Melrose Park



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DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS? Please email clefchicago.org to be added to our electronic communications list.

Luther North College Prep CLEF Scholar Recipients, receiving their awards through the CLEF High School Scholarship program.



Dream Award Winners honored at the 2014 Teacher Recognition Dinner.



Several students enjoying their Walcamp experience thanks to a generous grant from The Christopher Foundation.