

# CLEF NOTES

The Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation



## CONTENTS

- 2 FROM THE DIRECTOR
- 3 SAVE THE DATES  
NEW PROGRAMS  
LAUNCHED
- 4/5 GOOD NEWS REPORT
- 6/7 CLEF SCHOOLS  
PROFILE

## CLEF BOARD

### CHAIRMAN

Jay Christopher

### PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Richard Schubkegel

### VICE PRESIDENT

Steve Wild

### SECRETARY

Ann M. Rundio

### TREASURER

Michael T. Welch

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

William E. Everson

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

William J. Mattes

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeffrey L. Blackman

Jane Gorski

Kaia Einpaul Koerm

Terry E. Pfortmiller

Schawk Family

Kelley Christopher Schueler

Paul D. Soderholm

Al Steinhuis

Richard C. Vie

Brenna Woodley

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Janet Klotz

### BUSINESS & FINANCE MANAGER

Monica Wetak

### CPS BENEFITS COORDINATOR

Dawn Robinson

## 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.*



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

"This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine...everywhere I go, I'm going to let it shine." What a simple yet profound statement of faith in action. This is one of the children's favorite songs and they always sing it with joy and enthusiasm.

Our Lutheran school educators demonstrate this message of joyful service and witness to their students and parents daily. At CLEF, we are honored and humbled by their dedication and commitment to providing an education that imparts light,

faith, love, and wisdom to the children.

In support of our 27 Lutheran schools and to the benefit of our children and their families, CLEF is holding our annual fundraiser on April 18th at the Brookfield Zoo. This event is your opportunity to let your light shine, knowing that every dollar raised goes directly to support needed scholarships and other services for our students.

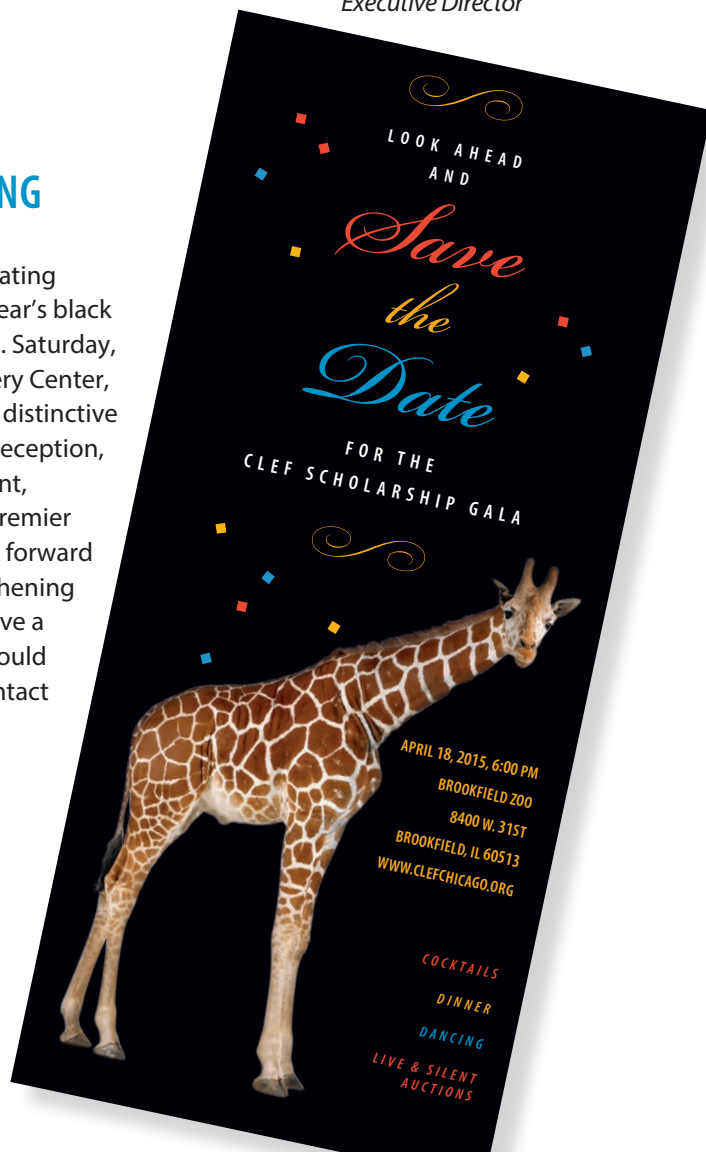
Please plan on joining us for an enjoyable evening so that we can help even more children let their little light shine. Watch for more news in the coming weeks on event details and silent and live auction items. Through God's grace "this little light of mine" belongs to all believers and is the most precious gift we can share with others. May your light shine bright every day.

Blessings,

Janet Klotz  
Executive Director

## WILD ABOUT LEARNING

Please join CLEF for an evening celebrating Lutheran education in Chicago. This year's black tie optional event takes place at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 18, in the Brookfield Zoo Discovery Center, 8400 W. 31st St., Brookfield. Featuring distinctive silent and live auction items, cocktail reception, sit-down dinner, and live entertainment, this year's Scholarship Gala is CLEF's premier fundraising event of the year. We look forward to celebrating another year of strengthening Chicago's Lutheran schools. If you have a unique item or experience that you would like to donate to this event, please contact Janet Klotz at the CLEF office, 630-595-9310.







## LUTHERAN URBAN KINGDOM EXPANSION

In a pilot effort to revitalize existing congregations and create new missional ministries in the Chicago area, the Clarence W. and Marilyn G. Schawk Family Foundation has provided a grant to CLEF to form LUKE: Lutheran Urban Kingdom Expansion.

This Chicago-based urban ministry renewal initiative is a collaborative effort of CLEF, the Life Spring Network (LSN), the Northern Illinois District (NID), and Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle. The Mission of LUKE is:

**To partner with Lutheran CLEF congregations in urban Chicago and unite them together toward building holistic, transformational disciple-making communities who are living on mission with God through Word and Sacrament ministry.**

*Participating congregations include:*

- Tabor Lutheran Evangelical Church** – 3542 W. Sunnyside Ave.
- Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church** – 2645 W. Belmont Ave.
- Messiah Lutheran Church** – 6201 W. Patterson Ave.
- Jehovah Evangelical Lutheran Church** – 3640 W. Belden Ave.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church** – 846 N. Menard Ave.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church** – 7621 S. Dorchester Ave.

At the highest level the mission is to live in the Light of the Great Commission. At the local level, the mission is to help existing churches engage the people of their communities in relationship-building experiences with Jesus Christ. At the grass-roots level, the goal is to “grow where you are planted” and intentionally seek new believers through the working of the Holy Spirit.

As urban ministry catalysts, each of the partners is committed to using their unique skills and experiences in providing support, resources, leadership, mentoring, communication, coordination, and training while living in the Spirit and following the Spirit’s leading in all they do. The command to “Go and make disciples,” is as relevant and as necessary today as when it was first issued by our Lord.



*Students from Luther North College Prep preparing for the Rube Goldberg Machine Contest held on February 20*

## PILOT SCHOOL COLLABORATION PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Over the summer, CLEF invited schools to share their most pressing needs and interests for program enhancement. School leadership was challenged to explore ways to cooperatively provide student experiences that may be too complicated or cost prohibitive to provide individually.

Lutheran Unity, St. James, St. John’s and Pilgrim accepted the challenge of leading CLEF’s pilot program. Together school representatives provided a test preparation workshop in November. A science and engineering competition will be held this winter. Luther North College Prep is participating in the Rube Goldberg Machine contest on February 20th at Navy Pier. Over the winter in January students worked on building a chalkboard erasing machine with the pilot schools joining in on the planning and building process. The younger students will be present at the competition in February and then hold their own competition with LNCP students acting as coaches. There will also be a poetry night held this spring.

While each school remains independent, the project is designed to enhance individual school programming, introduce the students to new learning experiences, and provide social experiences with a larger group outside of their own school.

## SAVE THE DATES!

### SCHOLARSHIP GALA

**April 18, 2015** Brookfield Zoo Discovery Center, Brookfield

### TEACHER RECOGNITION DINNER

**May 7, 2015** Maggiano’s Little Italy, Oak Brook

### NETWORKING CONFERENCE

**August 17, 2015** Walther Christian Academy



# GOOD NEWS REPORT



## USING NATURE AS A CLASSROOM



Given the prevalence of smart phones, tablets, and other electronic gadgets, children overall spend less time outdoors and interacting with others than they used to. This trend is magnified in neighborhoods plagued by crime and violence, where it is simply unsafe to play outside. Outdoor education provides a vastly different experience than traditional classroom learning. Nature itself becomes a teaching tool, inviting interaction and inquiry.

Through a generous grant from The Christopher Family Foundation, CLEF is able to help fifth and sixth grade students attend Walcamp each year. During their three day, two night visit, students participate in a variety of environmental education, outdoor skills, social and community studies, and recreation units. Whether practicing new skills such as archery, canoeing, or snowshoeing, learning about aquatic and bird life, or cooking their own meals over a campfire, students are strengthened physically, mentally and spiritually. They leave Walcamp with a greater appreciation for the complexity of nature and a better understanding of our place in God's world.

Service learning is an integral part of Christian education. While at Walcamp, students take part in projects such as

clearing brush, raking leaves, and cleaning picnic tables. Through these experiences, they are encouraged to take a sense of ownership and pride in Walcamp while learning the value of serving and blessing others as they have been blessed.

This winter CLEF and Walcamp are taking steps to enhance their partnership with each other and the schools they jointly serve. Representatives from CLEF and Walcamp will visit each school to meet with participating students and their parents and teachers. They will preview the program, address questions, and assist in marketing the value of outdoor education. CLEF looks forward to continuing this partnership and enhancing the connection of Walcamp outdoor education activities with school curriculum.





*“Thank you CLEF for sending our class to Walcamp. I really loved hiking, archery and kayaking. But, my favorite was roasting s’mores.”*

*– CLEF Grade School Student*



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

*Connecting faith & finances for good.™*

## THRIVENT CHOICE

CLEF is grateful for the support of Thrivent Financial and its members who have designated CLEF as recipient of their Thrivent Choice Dollars®. Thrivent is a financial services organization that helps Christians be wise with money and live generously. By directing Choice Dollars®, eligible Thrivent members can recommend nonprofit organizations they feel should receive charitable grant funding from Thrivent. If you are an eligible member, please consider CLEF when directing Choice Dollars. Your support allows us to expand our pool of scholarship support to Lutheran school students. To learn more about Thrivent Choice®, visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice). Or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836, and say “Thrivent Choice” when prompted.

## THRIVENT ACTION TEAM MEMBERS SOUGHT

Thrivent Financial provides opportunities for its members to make a meaningful impact through Thrivent Action Teams. These volunteer teams assist with one-time fundraisers, service activities or educational events. From time to time we are contacted by schools seeking help with a project or event. If you are interested in living your faith through action and would like to partner with CLEF or one of our schools, please contact us at 630-595-9310 or [clef@clefchicago.org](mailto:clef@clefchicago.org)

**AQUEITY®**

We're on top of IT

## CORPORATE SPONSOR PARTNER – AQUEITY

CLEF welcomes Aqueity as our technology partner. Aqueity is a local IT consulting firm specializing in small to medium sized Chicago-based businesses. We began the partnership this past summer and have seen great improvements in our schools. Most CLEF schools were constructed before computers were commercially available. Given that, it is no surprise that classrooms may not be configured to maximize use of technology in instruction. Blended learning offers highly engaging, interactive and customizable learning opportunities to students. However, with that comes the need for additional computers or iPads and the bandwidth to simultaneously connect them.

To date, Aqueity has conducted assessments of eleven CLEF schools, observing and making recommendations on ways to enhance safety, reliability and capacity of school computing environments. With their support, CLEF has implemented extensive technology upgrades, including the installation of low voltage cable, additional wireless access points, firewalls and routers, and the upgrade or replacement of outdated computer equipment. Aqueity's patience and creativity with aging infrastructure, as well as follow up and support with new users and new technology, has been outstanding!

## CLEF SEEKS PARTNERS FOR SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Does your school or congregation have a vacation bible school or scout troop looking for a service project? Many CLEF schools are located in highly impoverished neighborhoods, where often something as small as a box of crayons may not be within a family's budget. We are seeking partners to conduct school supply drives on behalf of some of Chicago's neediest students. If you are interested in exploring these opportunities further, please contact the CLEF office at 630-595-9310.



*Students participate in a variety of environmental education and outdoor skills at Walcamp.*

# CLEF SCHOOLS PROFILE

**WALTHER  
CHRISTIAN  
ACADEMY** | more  
than  
college  
prep  
EDUCATION IN THE LUTHERAN TRADITION

## ● Walther Christian Academy Upper School

Walther Christian Academy Upper School is a small school with a big spirit. Walther has a rigorous academic curriculum which prepares its students for college success. Nearly ninety percent of Walther graduates go on to college, and the 72 students in the Class of 2014 were offered more than \$9.5 million in scholarships and financial aid. However, some of the most important and long-lasting education Walther Christian Academy students receive does not occur in the classroom. It comes through serving others through various Christian service projects. Some of these projects include: a CROP Walk which raised \$2,635 for Church World Services and a "Pink" day which garnered \$600 for The Breast Cancer Prevention Institute. A Thanksgiving food drive and Christmas toy drive held at both the Upper and Lower Schools benefitted the local community.

Walther is a very diverse school and currently has 27 international students enrolled. These students from China, Taiwan and Korea live with local host families and fully participate in extra-curricular activities and social events. Activities such as: **Drama** with nearly 70 students involved, **Choirs and Bands** with more than 1/3 of the student body participating, **Sports** - 17 different sports including soccer, which fielded 18 players in this its inaugural year, and many social and academic clubs.



## ● Walther Christian Academy Lower School

This year Walther Christian Academy Lower School moved into the school building owned by St. Paul Lutheran Church in Melrose Park. Because the two campuses are now located directly across the street from each other, this move presents opportunities for collaboration between Upper and Lower school students. Students participate together in chapel and campfire services, including special services for Reformation, Ash Wednesday, Lutheran Schools Week and Holy Week. Walther nurtures and educates the total student and assists families by promoting spiritual, academic, social and physical development in a Christ-centered environment. Learning extends beyond the classroom. With the help of CLEF, Walther sent 34 students to Walcamp in the fall. There they learned about God through hands-on activities in the wonderful world of nature He created. Students can also participate in sports teams, choral and instrumental music programs and summer camps.



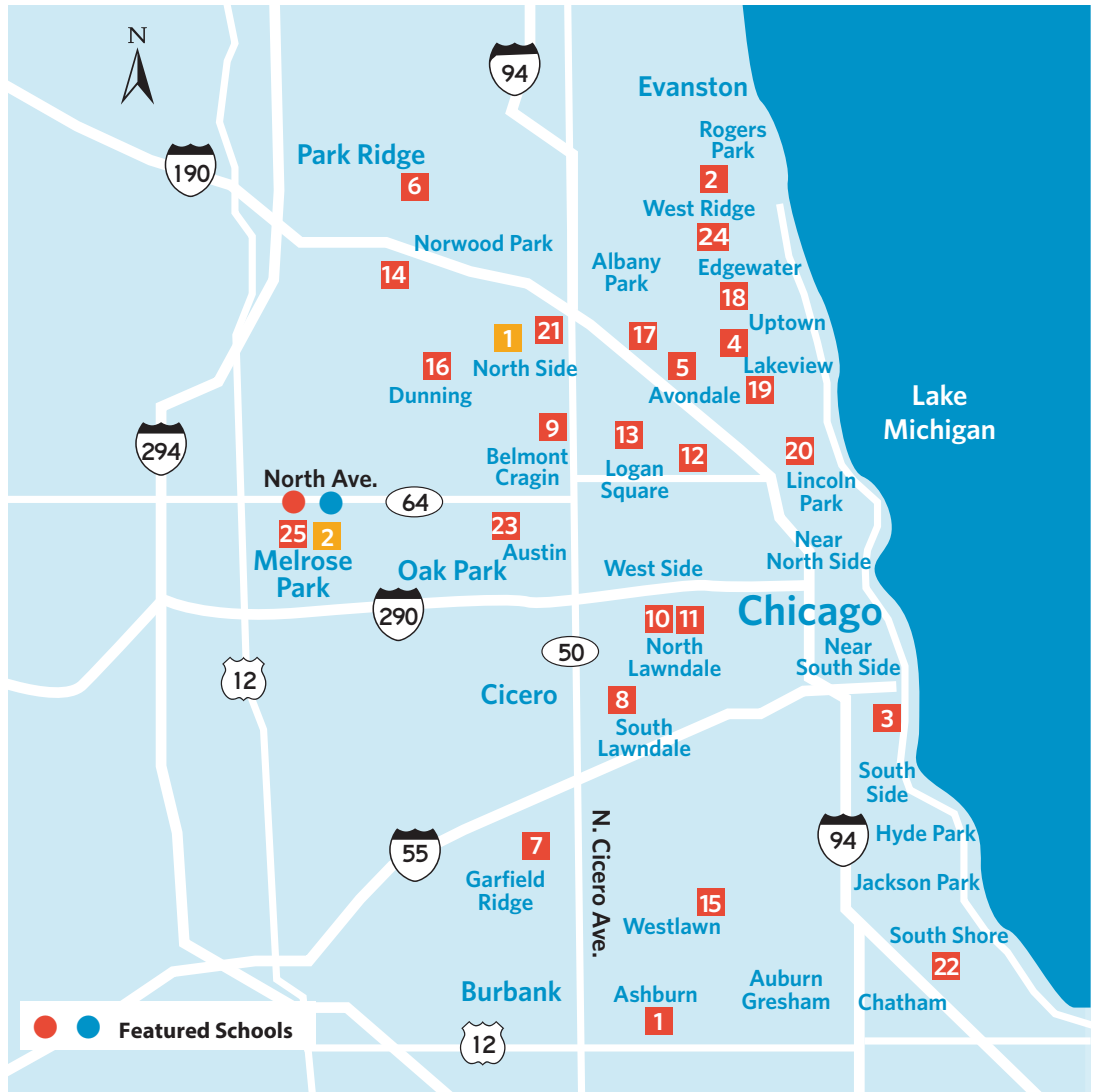


# SPREADING CHRIST THROUGHOUT THE CITY

*"Thank you again for affording my child an opportunity to receive a wonderful education in a caring Christ-centered environment."*

– CLEF Grade 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



Non Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Chicago, IL  
Permit 7719

*DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS? Please email [clef@clefchicago.org](mailto:clef@clefchicago.org) to be added to our electronic communications list.*

