



IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM EVERSON

William (Bill) Everson, a founding member and a former President and Treasurer of CLEF, was called to be with his Lord this past February. With over 20 years of service to CLEF and even more with his local church, Bill was a lifelong supporter and firm believer in the virtues and values of a Lutheran education.

"Hey Weed," (a nickname given to Bill in college because he was so tall and lanky) was often the call from his close friends when they needed his advice or help on a project. Bill was a man for all seasons, and a man full of reason, curiosity and compassion. He was a true Renaissance man who was equally at ease piloting a small plane, talking politics, attending Indy 500 races, or figuring out an electrical project.

Francis of Assisi must have been thinking about our beloved Bill when he wrote these words:

"He who works with his hands is a laborer.

He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman.

He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist."

Bill was truly an artist in everything he did. He was a willing helper, a possibility thinker and a real life doer. In other words, he could have an idea and then implement it with a practical solution.

He loved his Lord and he loved his family. Nothing was more important to him. He knew that his faith was a gift from God and he used his time, talents, energy to "let your (his) light so shine that others may glorify your Father in Heaven."

In this Spirit of doing, Bill was an active leader, participant, and supporter of the Christian mission organization UKANDU. This group sponsors and encourages youth and adults to reach out, as the loving and caring hands of Christ, to people in all places and circumstances. Their name reflects their proactive philosophy taken from Scripture; "I (You) CAN DO all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13. This year over 280 volunteers worked in the mission field known as Chicago, and we know the spirit of Bill Everson will be working right along with them as always.

"What's next" was always more of a direction than a question for Bill. He was part of the solution, always helpful and loving, and all the while living and proclaiming his faith through good works. Francis of Assisi also had a few words about this trait of Bill's: "The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today."

Bill will always be remembered for his love of Christ, his love of family and his love of life. He had an easy smile, an adventurous spirit, a hearty laugh, and helpful heart. Thank you Bill for your inspirational and "can do" legacy of leadership and service with CLEF and UKANDU.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works..." David's psalm to our Lord and Savior seeks to express his gratitude and thankfulness for God's loving and continuing care for all His creation.

The success of two recent events, CLEF's Scholarship Gala and our annual Teacher Recognition Dinner, demonstrate the tremendous commitment of many to Lutheran education in Chicago. Donors generously supported our scholarship fund at the Gala. The Teacher Recognition Dinner is held in honor, support and thankfulness for all our teachers, principals, pastors and staff. Each and every day they "let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Today, I would like to thank all our donors, volunteers, community partners, supporting foundations and CLEF board members for their continued support and encouragement in helping CLEF

bring Learning – Good News – For Life to all our children. In these troubled times, I believe there is no greater mission than this. Listen to the words of a student from Saint Luke Academy: "Thank you...I like that our school doesn't give up on us when we have trouble. I also like how the teachers care for us."

Through scholarships, school supplies, teacher training, classroom technology, school security, and countless other projects, the commitment and actions of our donors, supporters and volunteers are a bright shining light in a self-centered world.

The creator of the universe is with us today, tomorrow, the day after that, and throughout all eternity. He knows us as His dear children and loves us as our Father. He

"doesn't give up on us when we have trouble." What a great comfort and what a great boost to our confidence that, great or small, big or little, Jesus loves us and doesn't give up on us.

We love our children, we don't ever give up on them and we care for them each day. Marvelous are Your works. We will praise You, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Each person has made a difference. Each action has a lasting reaction. Each child thanks you. I thank you with heartfelt gratitude for everything you do to support Lutheran education. Marvelous are Your works, oh Lord!

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.

SAVE THE DATES!

NETWORKING CONFERENCE

Monday, August 17, 2015

Walther Christian Academy, Melrose Park

SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield

TEACHER RECOGNITION DINNER

Thursday, May 12, 2016

River Forest Country Club, Elmhurst



UKANDU RETURNS TO CHICAGO FOR SUMMER MISSION TRIP

A few weeks ago more than 280 adults and youth from the Midwest returned to Chicago to work on service projects in the city as part of UKANDU's summer mission trip. The theme for this 13th year, which took place June 21-27, was "UKANDU Something." This annual trip is an opportunity to bring hope, encouragement and the love of Jesus Christ to those in Chicago. UKANDU partners with CLEF, Northern Illinois District (NID) and Lutheran Church Charities to identify service opportunities in Chicago. Generous financial support from three Thrivent Chapters – Thrivent Financial North Cook County Chicago Chapter 30036, Thrivent Financial South Cook County Chapter 30042 and Thrivent Financial Northwest Cook County Chapter 30040 allows them to expand their reach even further. Another big thank you goes out to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Melrose Park for hosting the group.

UKANDU is a Christian mission organization dedicated to helping youth and adults become the heart and hands of Christ to those in need around the world. UKANDU upholds the Bible as the inspired, unchanged Word of God, which has revealed to us God's rich plan and inspired their unique name and proactive philosophy – "I (You) CAN DO all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) and, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10).

UKANDU volunteers help youth and adults experience the joy of fulfilling the "good works" prepared by God for them to do by creating mission trips that serve God by serving His people here on earth.

The UKANDU work groups completed a variety of tasks at many skill levels, including construction projects, repair of ceilings and floors, cleaning and painting, leading Vacation Bible School, and repairing decks and roofs in private homes. The work groups supply all of the necessary materials and tools to complete each project, and work side by side with members of the communities they serve.

The leaders and participants of UKANDU feel led to serve God in any manner possible and to demonstrate what the Lord has done in their lives to those they meet. It doesn't always take words to share God's love with strangers, very often it is the actions that speak louder than words.





CLEF Reached FOR NEW HEIGHTS

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, more than 200 friends of CLEF gathered at the Brookfield Zoo to celebrate another year of success and to raise scholarship dollars for our Lutheran schools. The Scholarship Gala is the premiere event of the year with 100% of all proceeds directly benefitting the students. Guests sipped cocktails with giraffes, bid on silent and live auction items including trips, sports and music tickets and beautifully handcrafted items from our schools, and danced the night away to the music of the Dick Judson Orchestra.

This year CLEF enhanced the event by adding online bidding for our silent auction. Through the use of smart devices such as iPhones and iPads, both the individuals at the gala as well as those who could not attend were able to bid and win the auction packages. This not only created a greater friendly competition but more importantly an increase in dollars raised.

One of the highlights of the evening was that attendees were joined by the CLEF High School Scholarship recipients from Walther Christian Academy and Luther North College Prep. The students assisted with the bidding process for the silent auction as well as supported the auctioneer by showcasing items during our live auction. We also had the privilege of hearing from one of the senior scholarship recipients from Walther – Eddie Coleman. Living on the city's west side, originally from Holy Family School, Eddie reminded everyone in attendance of the importance and necessity of CLEF and the scholarship money and financial support we provide. Without which so many students would not be able to afford our loving and safe Christian schools.

The great success of the event is all thanks to our friends and partners and their continued support of CLEF and Lutheran education. Be sure to save the date now for next year's gala once again at the Brookfield Zoo on Saturday, April 16, 2016!

“Not only have you blessed our schools over the years by putting your faith in His will, but you continue to give without asking for anything in return. This is a message that we try to teach our children every day through His word.” – CLEF teacher



THANK YOU TEACHERS AND STAFF!

dreams come true for our teachers

Children reading books, students creating and sharing their artwork, field trips to get back to nature, music programs and technology programs for children needing a little extra help. These are just some of the dreams that CLEF was able to grant to our teachers and schools this year.

Encouraged to "Dream a Little Dream," 30 teachers from our schools shared their wishes with CLEF. For the first time since the program began these dreams were not only selected by our Good News Award Committee (Jennifer Heinze, Dr. John Harrison, Kathy Slupik and Paul Trettin) but also were able to be funded by outside donors first at the Scholarship Gala and then beyond. With this additional funding 13 teachers and schools were able to see their dreams come true – to gain a tool or item that is not available to them in their own school budget. The award winners were announced at the annual Teacher Recognition Dinner held on May 7th at Maggiano's Restaurant in Oakbrook.

We had so many wonderful dreams to choose from and were honored to be able to grant the following this year:

Judith Acosta (Bethesda International Academy) – The Picassos of the Future

Donna Beck (Saint Luke Academy) – Integrating Technology – Powerful Potential

Ellie Fiala (Saint Luke Academy) – Circle Time: A Learning Space for All

Carol Hahn (St. Philip Lutheran) – Spelunking

Linda Johnson (Walther Christian Academy Lower) – Living with the Land

Willie Mae Kidd (St. Paul Lutheran on Menard) – Visit to the DuSable Museum

Cathie Lienemann (Our Saviour Lutheran) – Movement for Kids

Diana Maanum (St. Philip Lutheran) – Becoming One in Christ

Mariana Soulakian (Bethesda International Academy) – Revamp the Kindergarten Learning Center

St. Philip Staff (St. Philip Lutheran) – Apple TV

Vanessa Ueltzen (Lutheran Unity West) – Locked While Loading

Catie Urban (Walther Christian Academy Upper) – Talking Our Way to Excellence

Roberta Wentling and Illa Doss (Lutheran Day Nursery) – Music Together

The addition of outside funding doubled the number of dreams we were able to grant this year and we look forward to increasing this number in the years to come.



The Teacher Recognition Dinner is one of our favorite events of the year as we get to simply say "thank you" to the teachers, principals and staff members of our schools. Each and every year they work tirelessly to enhance and enrich the lives of our students and it is our privilege to be able to recognize them and show our appreciation for everything they do. In 2014 we introduced a new portion of the evening – the "Above and Beyond" Awards.

Doing something more than what is asked of or expected. Doing something greater than the "required" amount. Exceeding the call of duty. No matter the words you use, they all describe our amazing Above and Beyond Award recipients.

Jim Urban – Facilities Director, Walther Christian Academy

Vanessa Ueltzen – Teacher, Lutheran Unity West

Mario McGuire – Systems Engineer, Aqueity, Inc.

Carlo Giannotta – Principal, Grace Christian Academy



Your gifts show God's love in all that you have done for Lutheran educators."

– CLEF teacher



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Over \$2,000,000 was granted to Chicago's Lutheran schools in 2014-2015, including a tremendous \$650,000 in scholarships!

During the 2014-15 fiscal year, over 400 congregations, schools, community partners, organizations, corporations, foundations and individuals came together to provide support to our Chicago Lutheran Schools through CLEF. On behalf of the children and teachers whose lives you have blessed with your gift, we thank you. Your kind friendship and generosity have accomplished so much, and together we will continue to change the face of Lutheran education and the lives of so many children in Chicago.

Thank you for the generosity and commitment of the Chicago Lutheran Educational Foundation Board of Directors whose contributions cover 100% of our operational expenses. Thus, every dollar CLEF receives goes directly to our schools.

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 Walcamp Outdoor Ministries, Inc.

Schools

Ashburn Lutheran School
 Bethesda International Academy
 Gloria Dei Lutheran School
 Grace Christian Academy
 Grace English Lutheran School
 Holy Family School
 Lutheran Day Nursery
 Luther North College Prep
 Lutheran Unity School Association
 New Hope Lutheran School
 Our Saviour Lutheran Kindergarten and
 Preschool
 Park View Lutheran Church and School
 Pilgrim Lutheran School
 Saint Luke Academy
 St. Paul Lutheran School-Dorchester
 St. Paul Lutheran School- Menard
 St. Philip Lutheran School
 Trinity Lutheran School, Roselle
 Walther Christian Academy Lower
 Walther Christian Academy Upper
 Zion Lutheran ECEC

GOOD NEWS REPORT

CLEF WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER KEVIN PRELOGER



Welcome to our newest board member, Kevin Preloger. Kevin lives in Chicago with his wife, Katherine Buck, and their children Henry (6) and Eleanore (2). The family attends St. James Lutheran Church, continuing the family legacy of Lutheran education and worship. Originally from Seymour, Indiana, Kevin's parents are both alumni of Concordia University, River Forest. He is a graduate of Immanuel Lutheran School where his mother taught third

grade and his father taught music and served as Minister of Music at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Kevin joins the board with an extensive professional background. He currently serves as a Portfolio Manager at Perkins Investment Management, and has been with the company over 13 years. After graduating from Northwestern University with a degree in economics, Kevin worked at ABN AMRO/LaSalle Bank Wealth Management as an analyst and equity trader prior to joining Perkins.

What inspired you to join the CLEF board?

My first introduction to CLEF came several years ago as a result of my wife's affiliation with the Big Shoulders Fund as well as through Bob Perkins, the founder of the firm where I work, and the benefactor of the Perkins Malo Hunter Foundation, a longtime supporter of CLEF. It was through these two connections that I visited Grace Christian Academy, along with my wife, Kathy, and Bob Perkins. We were all very impressed with the mission and work of GCA, under the leadership of Principal Carlo Giannotta, and we all became scholarship donors shortly after that visit. Knowing that there are many other schools in Chicago that have a similar mission of providing a high quality Christian education with dedicated faculties and staffs led me to the decision that I could offer time and talent, in addition to financial assistance, to a great organization. I enthusiastically welcome the opportunity to serve on the CLEF board and look forward to working with the board members and staff in furthering the work, and success, of the 25 member schools.

What do you hope for our Lutheran schools?

As a graduate of a Lutheran elementary school, and the son of two Lutheran school educators, it is my hope that our Lutheran schools continue to provide an excellent education with a foundation based on core Christian values that results in graduates who are successful in their future endeavors beyond the classroom and model citizens in the community at large. The basis of a Lutheran education provided me with the academic vigor to be well prepared for later educational challenges in addition to forming the values that I live every day. Lutheran schools have a tremendous opportunity to be a superior and safe alternative to underperforming schools throughout our city. CLEF has seized this opportunity and it is my hope that Lutheran schools continue to operate at a high level and the "Good News" about CLEF schools can be spread throughout Chicago.

PROMOTE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: PARTNER WITH CLEF

Community Partners enable CLEF to carry out its mission. Sponsorship of a cause allies a company with its customers, employees and the communities in which they do business. The spirit of CLEF's 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 donations.

• Liaisons

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

To learn more about becoming a Community Partner, please contact Janet Klotz at the CLEF office, 630-595-9310.

CLEF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AQUEITY®
We're on top of IT



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LUTHERAN URBAN KINGDOM EXPANSION

Lutheran Urban Kingdom Expansion (LUKE) is the Chicago-based urban ministry renewal initiative collaboration between CLEF, the Life Spring Network (LSN), the Northern Illinois District (NID), and Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle.

To partner with Lutheran churches and CLEF schools 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.

Exciting things are happening with and through LUKE! The collaboration began last fall with the identification of five participating churches. In early 2015, intensive leadership coaching was launched, starting with a three day retreat held at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, Illinois. Participating pastors and principals and Life Spring Network staff gathered to connect and initiate a mentoring relationship with each other. Participants assessed their own personal journey with Christ, then moved on to help one another to think Biblically, holistically and practically about the church's mission, faith functions, life process and goals. The trip culminated with each church developing a profile for their current situation.

The group returned renewed and ready to move forward. The retreat was followed by a team fellowship dinner which provided an opportunity to get to know the different leaders in the LUKE churches before the one day "Leading the Omega Experience" conference was held. This final day provided the opportunity for the pastors to share what they learned on the retreat with church leaders. Pastors and leaders united to review and assess their churches, noted

"Economic times still prove to be tough for us. We feel ever so privileged to have our daughter attend such a wonderful school, and it is only with the help of CLEF. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

– CLEF School Parent

opportunities for mentoring, identified barriers to change, and worked to create congregational strategic plans.

This spring participating churches have finalized pastor selection to help implement the LUKE initiative. LUKE Governance Committee recommendations have been extended and accepted. The five LUKE churches have extended calls and all have been accepted.

LUKE Congregations:

Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church – 3542 W. Sunnyside Ave.

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church – 2645 W. Belmont Ave.

Jehovah Evangelical Lutheran Church – 3740 W. Belden Ave.

St. Paul Lutheran Church – 846 N. Menard Ave.

St. Paul Lutheran Church – 7621 S. Dorchester Ave.



CLEF has seized this opportunity and it is my hope that Lutheran schools continue to operate at a high level and the "Good News" about CLEF schools can be spread throughout Chicago." – Kevin Preloger

CLEF SCHOOLS PROFILE



● Students Soar at Saint Luke

Saint Luke Academy has been committed to the students of the city's Lakeview neighborhood for over 130 years. In order to prepare students for the challenges of this new millennium, the Academy is dedicated to offering the best in innovative, Christian education, evidenced by the advancements and achievements this past year alone.

Keeping up with the current trends, technology is a major focus at Saint Luke, and the school is constantly taking steps towards revamping the curriculum through differentiation of instruction. This instruction is implemented through Guided Reading in Learning Centers. Additional tools include: Reader's Writer's Workshop or Daily 5, personalized learning on the iPad with eSpark, and Sylvan's Sync and Ace It! Programs to support and enrich literacy learning.

Language Arts is not just for the elementary and middle school students. Saint Luke knows the importance of building a strong foundation from an early age. Back in October the new Early Childhood Center was opened, and with it came two wonderful programs – Book Bugs (fellowship and literacy activities for parents and children birth to 3) and Dragonflies (kiddie yoga and interactive literacy for parents and children birth to 3). Enrollment is on the rise with the addition of these programs, and beginning in the fall Saint Luke will be offering yet another option – Taste of Preschool – which is designed to meet the needs of the early three year old or students who might benefit from a gradual exposure to the school experience.

Not solely focused on literacy, Saint Luke creates well-rounded, high-achieving students that never shy away from a little healthy competition. This year they sent five teams to the State History Fair. Four of the teams received superior blue ribbons and the fifth, a perfect all-around score.



● Luther North Remembers the Past and Looks to the Future



Many wonderful things are happening at Luther North College Prep. As another school year is in the books, the school looks back fondly at their accomplishments, achievements and alumni while pushing forward to stay at the forefront of education.

LNCP Distinguished Alumni -- On April 25th more than 100 people attended the launch event and renaming ceremony for their Wall of Distinction, including 12 of the 25 past and present distinguished honorees. In honor and remembrance of one of CLEF's founding board members and all that the Schawk family has done for Luther North and Lutheran education, the wall is now officially the "Clarence and Marilyn Schawk Wall of Distinction." The wall honors alumni who have demonstrated excellence in their fields while serving their communities, and inspires all who pass by to use the gifts which God has given them to serve God and His people. God has blessed Luther North with talented students throughout its history, and they look forward to this annual event for years to come.

CUC Partnership -- This year Luther North and Concordia University Chicago formed an academic partnership which provides qualified junior and senior students the opportunity to earn college credit. Earning dual credits allows the students access to expanded course offerings while in high school, a facilitated transition between high school and post-secondary institutions, enhanced student success and a shorter time to a college degree. General Education courses are offered online, on campus, and onsite. Currently Mrs. Ann Rundio (AP English) and Mrs. Heather Lindgren (AP Calculus) are certified CUC adjunct instructors, and students who enroll in those courses have the opportunity to earn college credit onsite at Luther North. Students who subsequently enroll at Concordia University Chicago as full time undergraduates will receive a tuition grant back for dual credit tuition at Concordia. Concordia is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and courses are generally transferable for those students who choose to go elsewhere.

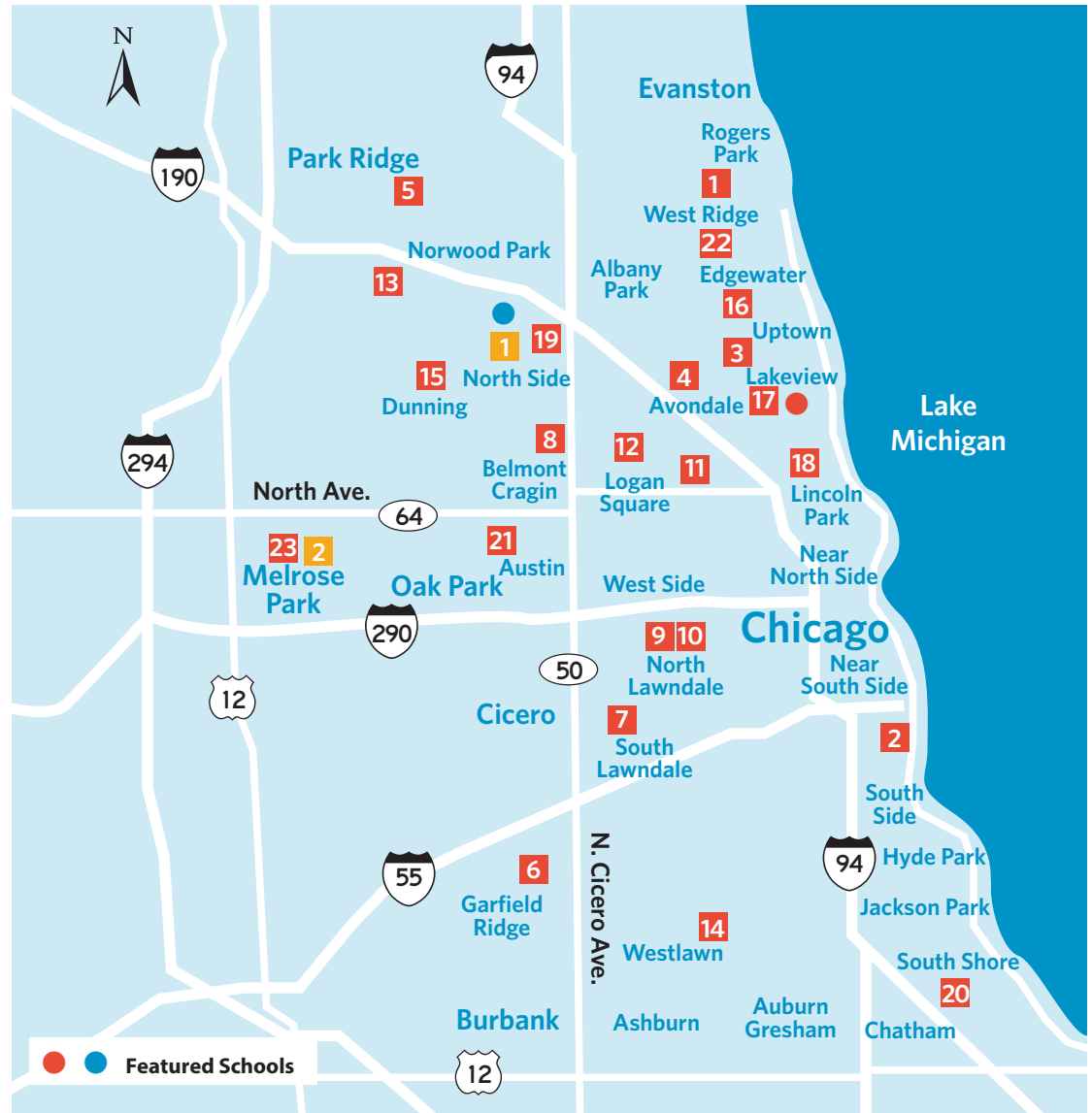
Tech Time -- Beginning this fall Luther North will be a 1:1 student-to-device school using Chromebooks. Chromebooks will allow students to have quick and easy access to thousands of apps, books, digital course materials and other services to enhance the classroom experience and prepare them for a collaborative and mobile post-secondary career.



SPREADING CHRIST THROUGHOUT THE CITY

"Thank you so much for my scholarship. Because of you I can start on the right road to leadership and have a great future."

– CLEF Grade School Student



- 1 **Luther North College Prep**, 5700 W. Berteau Ave, Chicago
- 2 **Walther Christian Academy**, 900 Chicago Ave, Melrose Park
- 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 **Grace Christian Academy**, 4106 W. 28th St, Chicago
- 8 **Grace English Lutheran School**, 2725 N. Laramie Ave, Chicago
- 9 **Holy Family School**, 3415 W. Arthington St, Chicago
- 10 **Little Learners Academy**, 3415 W. Arthington St, Chicago

- 11 **Lutheran Day Nursery**, 1802 N. Fairfield Ave, Chicago
- 12 **Lutheran Unity East**, 3740 W. Belden Ave, Chicago
- 13 **Lutheran Unity West**, 5650 N. Canfield Ave, Chicago
- 14 **New Hope School**, 6416 S. Washtenaw Ave, Chicago
- 15 **Our Saviour Lutheran School**, 7151 W. Cornelia Ave, Chicago
- 16 **Pilgrim Lutheran School**, 4300 N. Winchester Ave, Chicago
- 17 **Saint Luke Academy**, 1500 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago
- 18 **St. James Lutheran School**, 2101 N. Fremont St, Chicago
- 19 **St. John's Lutheran School**, 4939 W. Montrose Ave, Chicago
- 20 **St. Paul Lutheran School**, 7621 S. Dorchester Ave, Chicago
- 21 **St. Paul Lutheran School**, 846 N. Menard Ave, Chicago
- 22 **St. Philip Lutheran School**, 2500 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago
- 23 **Walther Christian Academy**, 1025 W. Lake St, Melrose Park

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

CONGRATULATIONS 2015 GRADUATES!

