

CLEF NOTES

The Newsletter of the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation

WINTER 2016



CONTENTS

- 2 FROM THE DIRECTOR
- 3 SAVE THE DATES
- STIRRED TO LOVE
- 4/5 GOOD NEWS REPORT
- 6 /7 CLEF SCHOOLS
PROFILE

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Really Good News – The Fourth R

I personally always hope at this time of the year that somehow Christmas could return simply by hitting a magical refresh button, as there is no better time of the year than when we get to celebrate Christ's birth. But the cold and dreary anti-climactic January always seems to show up. Actually for CLEF this is a very exciting time for our students and families, as well as for our teachers and staff, as they have already hit the ground running into the second semester after a much-needed break.

Along with the traditional three Rs, our Lutheran schools get the privilege of teaching a fourth R, Religion. And for all concerned, that's really Good News. It's really Good News for our students because often their first

contact and knowledge of Jesus is experienced by the love and care shown by their teachers.

It's really Good News for us because we are reminded that we have the same calling, telling others about Jesus, no matter where we are in our life's journey. Each step we take, each word we speak, each act of kindness, each act of listening, and ultimately, each act of loving one another as Christ first loved us by sending His son on Christmas Day, is Good News.

Let's put it another way or better yet, let Francis of Assisi put it another way: "The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today."

We live our lives using the three Rs, but we live our eternal lives using and believing the fourth R. We are saved by Grace alone; surely we can find time and

place to show and tell others about this wonderful Good News. If words fail you at times, let your heart direct your deeds, so all may come to know and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Each time you see a teacher, thank them for their dedication and commitment to the four Rs. Each time you see a student, pray that their ears will hear and their hearts receive the Good News. Thank you to all our donors, sponsors and community partners for making the fourth R a reality for all the children in our Lutheran schools.

The Fourth R makes all the difference in the world. And that's really Good News.

Blessings,

Janet Klotz

Executive Director

HELP CLEF STUDENTS SHINE

The Brookfield Zoo will once again play host to CLEF's annual Scholarship Gala. Please join us on Saturday, April 16th for a night of fun, food and fellowship as we raise much needed funds for our schools. This black-tie optional, not-to-be-missed evening will feature cocktails, silent and live auctions, and dinner and dancing, all to benefit the students and further CLEF's mission. If you have a unique item or experience that you would like to donate, please contact Janet Klotz at the CLEF office – 630.595.9310. We look forward to celebrating our shining stars with you!

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.



STIRRED TO LOVE

Chicago and suburban Lutheran schools of the Northern Illinois District Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (NID-LCMS) recently created new partnerships through the Stirred to Love program.



The goals are to:

- Create positive interactions between students
- Provide resources for children in the city school
- Provide greater collaboration between staff at the partner schools

The “sister school” initiative got its unique name from the book of Hebrews.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love.”

– Hebrews 10:24

The Stirred to Love program includes both principals and pastors from the participating schools acting as liaisons.

Participating Schools:

Christ the King Lutheran & St. Peter Lutheran, Schaumburg

St. Paul Lutheran on Dorchester & Immanuel Lutheran, Palatine

Bethesda International Academy & Immanuel Lutheran, Crystal Lake

New Hope Lutheran & St. John Lutheran, Country Club Hills

Walther Christian Academy & St. Peter Lutheran, Arlington Heights

St. Paul Lutheran on Menard & Trinity Lutheran, Roselle

Lutheran Unity East & St. Matthew Lutheran, Hawthorn Woods

To date, the program has held networking meetings with NID, CLEF and all participating schools in attendance. The most beneficial and meaningful activities are chapel services and other events that the partner schools are doing with each other.



Cheryl Saiki, our new Special Education Consultant

WELCOME TO OUR SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTANT

This past fall, CLEF warmly welcomed Cheryl Saiki as our new Special Education Consultant. Cheryl comes to us with over 30 years of experience teaching special education in the Chicago Lutheran schools. In that capacity, she also worked with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to leverage much needed federal funding for IDEA-eligible students. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that ensures services to children with disabilities. By law, public school districts are required to allocate a portion of their federal special education funds to ensure that eligible private school students can equitably participate in special education services. These funds cover individualized needs including speech therapy, occupational therapy, social work counseling, physical therapy, and other learning disability supports.

Cheryl has been a wonderful addition to the CLEF team and a huge asset to our schools. She has been assisting CLEF schools with assessing students, submitting referrals to CPS on the schools' behalf, and locating providers for IDEA services. These services are vital to student success, but the referral process is often cumbersome for both parents and schools. Please contact Cheryl if you know or have a student that could benefit from these services.

She can be contacted at: special@clefchicago.org or 773-858-2081.

Thank you to all of the schools and students who participated in CLEF's 2015 Christmas Card Contest. Congratulations to Christina Sweich from St. John's Lutheran School and Emerson Doody from Walther Christian Academy for creating the artwork chosen.



Christina Sweich



Emmerson Doody

SAVE THE DATES!

SCHOLARSHIP GALA

April 16, 2016 Brookfield Zoo Discovery Center, Brookfield

TEACHER RECOGNITION DINNER

May 12, 2016 River Forest Country Club, Elmhurst

NETWORKING CONFERENCE

August 15, 2016 Walther Christian Academy, Melrose Park

GOOD NEWS REPORT

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

KELLEY CHRISTOPHER SCHUELER



Kelley Christopher Schueler is one of CLEF's newer board members, coming to us with an extensive education and philanthropic background. In addition to her dedication to CLEF, Kelley is a trustee of The Christopher Family Foundation, a role in which she helps facilitate financial support for charitable organizations. She

also serves as a trustee for the Chicago Zoological Society. Kelley spent eight years as a grade school teacher, first at Our Saviour Lutheran School in Chicago, and then at Trinity Lutheran School in Roselle, where she was an advocate of differentiated learning and integrating technology across the curriculum. She earned her B.S. in Education from Valparaiso University and her M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction, with a concentration in Technology, from Loyola University (Chicago). Kelley resides in Hinsdale with her husband, Paul, and their four young children.

What inspired you to join the CLEF board?

As a former Lutheran educator, I firmly believe in the importance of providing all God's children with a strong academic foundation and supportive environment in which to further develop their Christian faith. Through my teaching experience and my family's strong ties to the Lutheran church, I am keenly aware of the challenges Lutheran schools and educators face in soliciting and securing financial support. As a member of my family's foundation board, I helped facilitate a partnership between CLEF and Walcamp Outdoor Ministries in Kingston, Illinois, whereby 5th and 6th grade students from CLEF schools attend an outdoor education experience in which they foster their relationship with God and others amid His creation. I've seen first-hand how this experience has impacted students in a positive way through the interactions and experiences they have at camp.

What do you hope for Lutheran Schools?

My sister and I were raised in the Lutheran school system, as were both of our parents. My children are now being taught and nurtured by Christian educators and administrators. I'm grateful each and every day for the formative Christian education I received, and its positive impact on my life. I think it's imperative that we feed the minds and hearts of our Lutheran school children, so that they, in turn, are moved and prepared to honor and preserve our Lutheran heritage.



CONCERNED CHRISTIAN MEN

Founded in 1996, Concerned Christian Men (CCM) was formed to provide strong black male leadership and guidance to young boys living on the south side of Chicago. These Christian men act as mentors and assist the youth in becoming positive, contributing members of their communities. With an emphasis on education, the organization has awarded over \$100,000 in college scholarships. CCM holds a monthly breakfast where they average over 300 attendees. This is an opportunity for the young men and their mentors to spend time together and listen to a male African-American speaker who has had significant success in their life. Some of the past speakers have included: President Obama, CEO of McDonald's Don Thompson, and members of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Another popular activity is an annual trip to Thompkins-Stimley Summer Camp in Michigan. This important experience allows the boys to get out of the city and enjoy time in nature. Participants grow physically, emotionally and spiritually through this adventure. CCM makes sure this trip is possible by providing scholarships to deserving young men throughout the city. CLEF is very thankful to our Community Partner Nathaniel Sutton for introducing CCM to St. Paul Dorchester. St. Paul has been participating for several years and some of the students have even received awards, including Christopher Robinson (pictured), who recently received the Thompkins-Stimley Outstanding Camper Award.



"I think it's imperative that we feed the minds and hearts of our Lutheran school children, so that they, in turn, are moved and prepared to honor and preserve our Lutheran heritage." – Kelley Christopher Schueler

WAYS TO SUPPORT CLEF



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Do you shop on Amazon? You can now help contribute to CLEF with your purchases. Each time you visit Amazon to shop, go to smile.amazon.com (you can bookmark it for ease in returning to that page), and login with your normal account information. The first time you log into Amazon Smile, you will be asked what charitable organization you wish to support with your purchases. Please type: Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation. Amazon will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to CLEF. Thanks, and happy shopping!

CHARITABLE DONATIONS FROM IRAs

The Charitable IRA Rollover provision has been made permanent through recent legislation. This provision allows donors age 70 ½ and over to exclude up to \$100,000 from gross income for donations paid directly to a qualified charity such as CLEF. These donations satisfy IRA minimum distribution requirements. However, the amount excluded from gross income is not allowed as a charitable contribution deduction. Please consult with your tax advisor to see whether an IRA rollover contribution may be right for you.



CORPORATE SPONSOR PARTNER – SUTTON AUTO GROUP

CLEF is grateful for all of our Community Partners. This month we want to highlight Sutton Auto Group and Nathaniel (Nate) Sutton. Nate is the President and Owner of Sutton Ford Lincoln in Matteson, Illinois and Honda of Kenosha in Bristol, Wisconsin. From small beginnings in Sutton Ford's first location just south of the Chicago city limits, to one of the most successful auto groups in the Chicagoland area for over 25 years, it is no coincidence that Sutton has coupled the ideals of entrepreneurship with community service to help build the surrounding area and city that he loves so dearly. He has shown his commitment by being involved in numerous community activities, sitting on the board at hospitals and the Salvation Army, as well as being an advocate for The Concerned Christian Men Program.

CLEF is very fortunate that Nate was raised by a Lutheran school teacher and therefore understands the dedication and commitment it takes to sustain Lutheran schools, especially in an urban setting. The Sutton Auto Group has been extremely generous with monetary donations supporting curriculum materials and classroom furnishings, literacy coaching, and professional development. It is no wonder why they have received numerous awards for loyalty and being "partners in quality."

CLEF COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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DID YOU KNOW... CLEF IS GUIDESTAR SILVER

CLEF is a proud member of GuideStar Nonprofit Profile and has recently reached the silver level. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofits, and receiving the silver logo shows that we are committed to complete transparency and accountability and that we continue to participate in all programs and complete each applicable task. For more information you can check out our profile at:

<http://www.guidestar.org/organizations/36-3922804/chicagoland-lutheran-educational-foundation.aspx>

CLEF SCHOOLS PROFILE



● St. Paul Soars into 2016

The 2016 school year has proven exciting for St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran School on Dorchester. The school is seeing a steady rise in enrollment due in part to their new focus. St. Paul is now a S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) school. To facilitate this change, the teachers attended professional development classes over the summer at Northwestern University and Hyde Park High School (with Mainstream Development Education Group). They spent three days in Wisconsin dissecting the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Upon returning they then delved into the new Social Studies standards that were approved by the State of Illinois in June. The faculty had a final overview of the connected S.T.E.A.M. curriculum, an instructional tool of lesson planning developed by Dr. Barbara Radner (DePaul University) and funded by Polk Bros. Foundation Center for Urban Education. In addition to this new curriculum, St. Paul has also added Spanish to 3rd-8th grades. The Concerned Christian Men program (see related article) continues to be a beacon of light for the boys of the school. The entire community has been engaged through neighborhood walks organized through the Lutheran Urban Kingdom Expansion (LUKE) project. These walks are a great way to increase awareness of St. Paul and the exceptional Christian education and warm family atmosphere they provide.



OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN SCHOOL

● So Many Options at Our Saviour

Our Saviour Lutheran School continues its tradition of providing a quality Christ-centered education to their Preschool and Kindergarten students in the Dunning neighborhood. This year has brought on growth opportunities. The school is growing in both enrollment and extra-curricular offerings, each day providing an exciting enrichment class for their students.

Monday: LET'S FIND OUT: SCIENCE

Children are able to explore, ask, discover and experiment with hands-on activities.

Tuesday: YOGA FOR KIDS

Little "yogis" are hatched after participating in the fun, safe, and relaxing activities which improve focus and sense of well-being.

Wednesday: Jr CHEFS COOKING CLASS

Possibly creating the next Wolfgang Puck, the children learn about nutrition, mix up kid-friendly recipes and even make their own cookbook.

Thursday: DANCE

The young dancers participate in a variety of activities including tap and ballet, and creative movement and tumbling.

Friday: GYM TIME

Thanks in part to a dream coming true at the Teacher Award Dinner back in May, students are able to exercise, play group games, and enjoy free play time in the gym.

While the regular day may end at 3:00, Our Saviour students are staying at school to enrich both their minds and bodies.



SPREADING CHRIST THROUGHOUT THE CITY

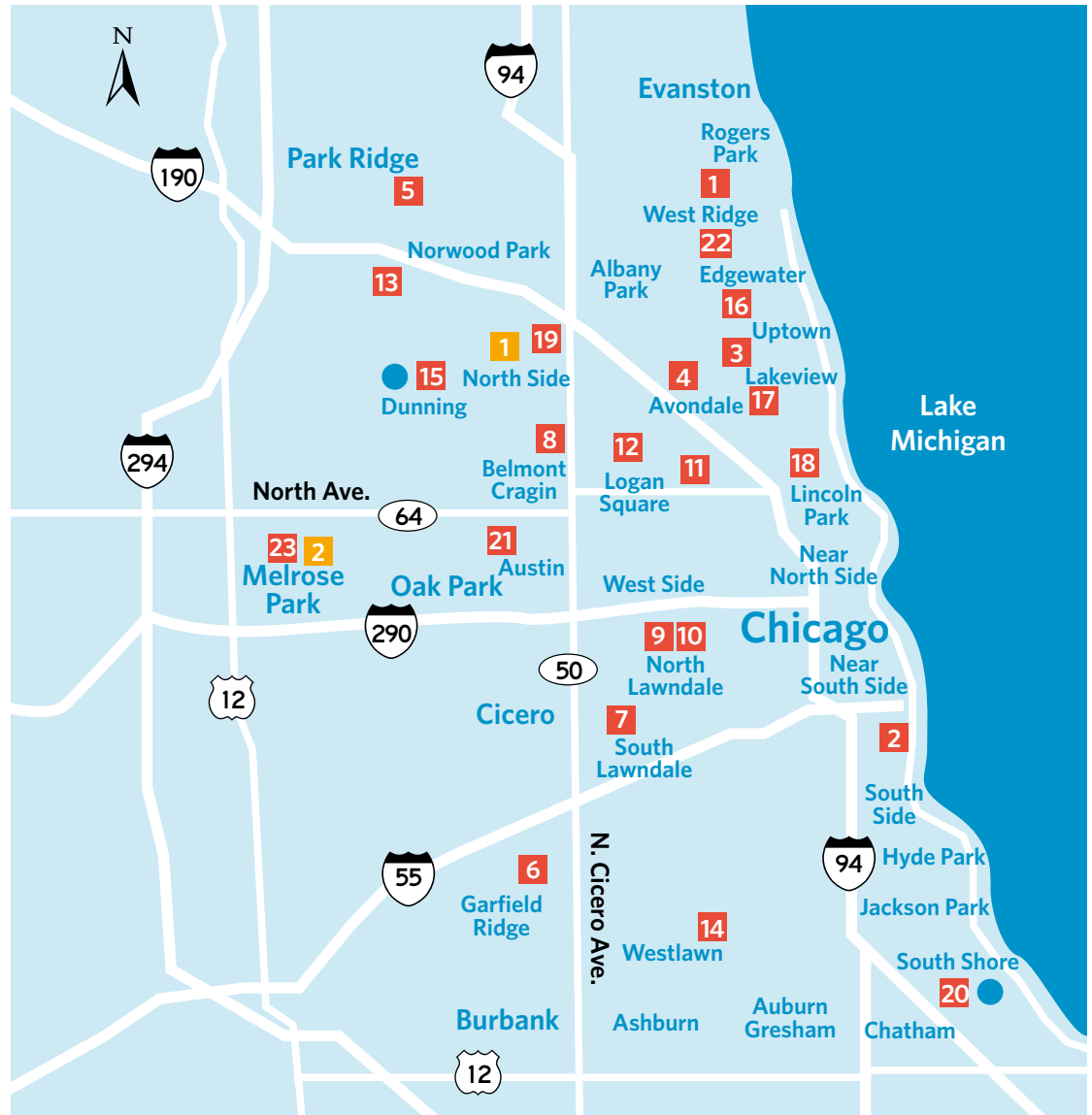
"Thank you CLEF, we are truly humbled. Providing our children a Lutheran education is very important and we wouldn't be able to without you."

– CLEF Grade School Parent

● Featured Schools

■ 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 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

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