



## SCIENCE SERIES CURRICULUM COLLABORATION

Rockets blasting off, Ivory soap cooking in the microwave, eating a candle – these concepts are all part of science and were all made available to our teachers through a unique partnership between CLEF, the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and Chicago Community Trust, fostering the creation of a new and exciting Science Series.

The NID wrote an elementary science curriculum based on state standards and put together four units of Hands-On Science for each of Grades 1-8. Both city and suburban schools are welcome to these units and are invited to training and demonstrations on how to teach them. In addition, twelve schools are receiving boxes of materials to use in teaching the

units. These boxes were made available through a grant from the Searle Funds of the Chicago Community Trust and donations from Jewel, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, and Target. Education on the units began at the Networking Conference

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### Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Like so many of you, I had the opportunity to take a vacation this summer. I took advantage of the time to visit family, play some golf and simply soak up the sun. For those few days when we escape our day to day life, it is a reminder that we should slow down and be grateful for all that God has provided. As I sat on a beach watching yet another beautiful sunset I was reminded of God's comforting and calming words in Psalm 46: "Be still and know that I am God."

Much too soon it seemed I found myself back at my desk, overwhelmed with responsibilities and things to do and forgetting those important words. It happens quickly, and so easily.

This week, when I sat down to write my weekly "to do" list I wrote the words from that Psalm at the top of my page – and what a difference it has made! Each day, the first thing I see on my page are those words, and I am reminded that I need to take a deep breath, set my priorities, and remember that God is tackling my projects with me. It doesn't hurt that that beautiful sunset pops into my head, too!

As you can well imagine this is a busy time for our schools, our teachers, our students and CLEF. As we enter yet another school year, educational training programs, funding and other granting programs, and special events begin to take center stage once again. In this newsletter, you will read about many of the fun and exciting programs and activities that CLEF has been involved in over the summer – and will be involved in over the coming school year. You will be introduced to some special gifts that have been received over the summer. We are especially excited to share plans and new information about the Scholarship Dinner on November 10. We are grateful to each and every one of you for the role you have played in making these gifts, programs and events possible.

While we cannot stay on that beach forever, I encourage all of you to remember these words and keep that vacation feeling well into the Fall! Blessings!

*Robin Doeden, Executive Director*

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## SCIENCE CURRICULUM

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and is continuing once a month throughout the school year.

Tricia Walton, Curriculum Development Coordinator for the NID and designer of the program, pointed out, “We have the best science minds in the Northern Illinois District teaching teachers to teach science.” The science teachers involved in this training are: Sheryl Duff, St. John’s Wheaton; Sue Domeier, St. Luke’s

Itasca; Diane Hinck, Zion in Marengo; Deb Koehler, St. John’s Lombard; and Nora Holler, St. John’s Lombard.

Reed Sander, Education Director, NID-LCMS, spoke of this partnership: “I’m so excited about the collaboration that came together, with the leadership of Robin Doeden and Chuck Asche from CLEF, and Tricia’s knowledge of curriculum development. We are all focused on quality academics in a Christian environment and that’s what our Lutheran schools are all about.” ☀



*The teachers have become students - of science! Several teachers enjoy the opportunity for “hands-on” investigations and experiments through the new curriculum training.*



## SUPPORT FOR NEW URBAN TEACHERS

It’s called the “New” Urban Teachers’ Series, but some “not-so-new” teachers come too!

CLEF and Concordia University have teamed up for year two of the series, which is a no-cost-to-participants program that assists first-year “new” Lutheran school educators, new to inner-city schools. The teachers gather each month under the guidance of Roberta Smith, Director of the Academy of Professional Education at Concordia. Here they not only hear from an expert in an area of education pertinent to their needs in the classroom, but they also discuss, brainstorm, and

support each other, equipping themselves for the challenges of urban classrooms.

Roberta Smith shared, “I strongly believe in supporting the teachers’ needs. Having been a teacher and principal, I remember both being in the classroom for the first time, and also as a principal needing to properly support new teachers in my school.” Roberta went on to say, “By supporting our new teachers this way, we are hoping to keep those that are called to teaching in the profession.”

Kari Jensen, a 2nd grade teacher at St. Philip Lutheran, had this to say, “The New Urban Teachers’ experience last year was very

valuable to me, as it helped me prepare for specific circumstances throughout the year. We scheduled our topics so they would relate to events happening in the classroom at that particular time, such as setting up a classroom, routines, parent teacher conferences and retention. I enjoyed being able to share ideas with other teachers and being rejuvenated through new information and positive reinforcement of what I was already doing. I look forward to continuing my participation in the series this year, as a second-year teacher, and helping other new urban teachers through their first experiences.” ☀

# VALUABLE VALPARAISO PARTNERSHIP

CLEF's partnership with Valparaiso University through the Lutheran Educational Alliance with Parochial Schools (LEAPS) program is in its seventh year. This alliance allows non-education majors to attain a Masters in Education at Valparaiso University while working in our inner-city Lutheran schools for two years.

The schools have really benefitted from these talented individuals being on staff and have shown positive changes. In fact, two different schools have graduates of the program that are continuing to mentor other LEAPS teachers. Chuck Asche, CLEF Education Administrator, says, "These teachers

*"These teachers are intelligent, know subject matter, demonstrate Christian service, and live in a faith-based community."*

are intelligent, know subject matter, demonstrate Christian service, and live in a faith-based community. It is great to see bright students go into teaching and Christian service, which is very rewarding." After they graduate, teachers have chosen to remain in their Lutheran teaching sites, accepted positions in parochial or public schools across the country, or have gone overseas to teach in Albania, China and Indonesia.

Successes for the 2006-07 year include direct teaching of 1300 students in 16 different parochial schools by 21 LEAPS teachers, and guidance of about 300 students in

various co- or extra-curricular activities. Other successes involve continued investment in schools serving mixed- and low-income neighborhoods, such as St. Paul (Dorchester Ave.), Jehovah, New Hope, Ashburn, Bethesda, Luther North, and Luther South and also strong retention, graduation and licensing rates relative to similar programs (secular and faith-based) providing teaching service to underserved populations. ☀

## Sports + Scholarship Dollars = CATCH THE SPIRIT!

The time is nearing for our exciting black tie event! Seats are going fast, so reserve your table now! Plans for our scholarship dinner and auction are well under way, and you will want your chance at bat for some amazing auction items. Auction contributors really hit it out of the park this year. Put yourself in the line-up for prizes such as a luxurious Miraval spa trip in Tucson, AZ valued at \$6,000, an incredible golf trip to Ireland, and an official Ryne Sandberg jersey – autographed for the high bidder by Ryne himself. There will also be a wide array of silent auction items, including a weekend at the Geneva Inn in beautiful Lake Geneva, and tickets for Cubs and Bulls games.

The talented design team from Kehoe Designs is working with us to combine elegance and excitement in our black-tie ballpark. Laura Madsen, CLEF board member and event chair explained, "Through this event, we hope to expose more people to CLEF's mission of helping the students in Chicago's Lutheran schools. The black tie event is our most lucrative fund-raiser, and Catch the Spirit will be our biggest success ever." Laura went on to explain that our black tie event will now become an annual affair, with work on the 2008 event already underway.

You can register for the event through the mail or online at [www.goodnewsfund.org](http://www.goodnewsfund.org). If you have not received your invitation, contact CLEF at 630-595-9310, or visit our website. Seats are going fast! ☀



**Save the Date!**

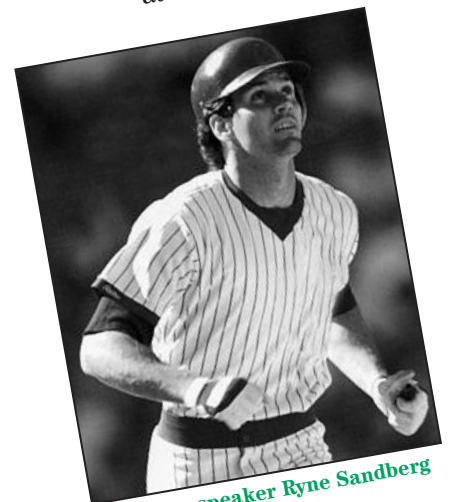
**Saturday, November 10, 2007**

Join emcee Richard Bimler and Event Pastor Dan Gilbert, President LCMS-NID for an evening of food, fun and fundraising!

**Hyatt Regency O'Hare**

**Proceeds to benefit CLEF Scholarship Fund**

Questions? Call Robin Doeden at 630-595-9310



**Keynote speaker Ryne Sandberg**

# HUNDREDS INSPIRED AT CLEF'S NETWORKING CONFERENCE

The words of *Amazing Grace* filled Walther Lutheran High School on Monday, August 13, at the opening of CLEF's annual Networking Conference, and truly God's grace was upon the event. Teachers, principals, pastors and CLEF board members and friends gathered to share ideas, acknowledge last year's achievements, and gain insight and knowledge for the upcoming year.

Marva Collins, keynote speaker for the event, provided inspiration to

all in attendance. Marva founded Westside Preparatory School in 1975 on the second floor of her Chicago home. She saw an opportunity to teach children to be all that they can be and to shake the labels attached to them by society. Marva's talk, entitled, "There's a Brilliant Child Locked

Inside Every Student" spoke of how to explore each of our gifts and those of our students, and to reach children in a positive way with high expectations. She taught to reach for the stars and that "average people are never in short supply. We need to teach these children to think outside the box."

Chuck Asche, CLEF Education Administrator, confirmed this by saying, "the best way to work on a child's deficits is to focus on his or her attributes. Kids enjoy a challenging environment that is positive." Of the conference, Chuck went on to say,



*The Science series kicks-off at the CLEF Networking Conference.*

"the theme of Unlocking God's Brilliance in Every Child was supported by all of the conference's presenters, from the opening devotion, to the keynote address, to the workshop presenters." After the keynote address, educators were invited to take part in workshops on a wide variety of relevant topics. Being a noted teacher of teachers, Marva Collins performed a live demonstration with twelve fourth



*Above: Students from Holy Family Lutheran School are all ears during Marva Collins' teaching demonstration. Below: Jay Christopher and The Pampered Chef offer teachers an opportunity to support the CLEF-Walcamp Outdoor Education Program through a special Rummage Sale at the Networking Conference.*



*Marva Collins, keynote speaker, provides a teaching demonstration with students from Holy Family Lutheran School.*

and fifth grade students from Holy Family Lutheran School, using her techniques and reasoning skills.

Resources were available from a wide variety of vendors on hand. The conference was a huge success and a great launch to the school year. Attendees were left with the same challenge that Marva Collins gave her students every day – *what phenomenal thing am I going to achieve today to make the world a better place?* ☀



*Catching up with friends and sharing experiences make for special moments during the Networking Conference.*

## RECORD HIGH GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR 2007-08

As we begin this school year, we are excited to announce that the initial grant commitment amount of \$909,791 is our highest ever. We fully anticipate the amount will rise above \$1 million as gifting to CLEF continues throughout the school year. Terry Pfortmiller, CLEF Grants Committee Chair states, “It’s always a pleasure to be able to grant the amounts that we do to help further Christian education through our Lutheran schools in the Chicago area. During the 2006-07 school year we provided more than \$1 million to our schools for the first time in

CLEF history. This has certainly raised the bar on our granting opportunities, and we hope to exceed that number this year.”

CLEF strives to meet the growing and continual needs in our Lutheran schools, but the fact is that several desks remain empty because families simply cannot afford to send their children to Lutheran school without the aid of scholarships. Robin Doeden, Executive Director of CLEF explains, “Scholarships continue to be our highest priority, and the

## Bonuses for Educators

Through a generous gift from Clarence and Marilyn Schawk, CLEF teachers can once again look forward to qualifying for a special salary bonus this year. Now in its third year, the program is set up to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of our dedicated teachers, and to encourage them to strive for their personal best. Based on salary and years teaching, a teacher can earn up to a \$2,000 bonus, with a Masters degree earning an additional \$500.

The feedback from the past two years has been touching. This money makes a significant impact on these teachers’ lives. Thank you notes from grateful teachers held details about how the bonus money came just as one teacher needed a new water heater; another teacher needed the money for a down payment on a new apartment; and yet another teacher’s car broke down, requiring money for repairs. Robin Doeden, Executive Director, said, “Our teachers are our biggest asset in our Lutheran schools. Thanks to the Schawks’ kindness this program enables us to show our gratitude for the hard work they do each and every day.” ☀

### CLEF GRANTS 2006-2007

CATEGORY	AMOUNT GRANTED	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Scholarships .....	\$391,500 .....	43%
Special Education .....	\$66,200 .....	7%
Programming .....	\$26,150 .....	3%
Materials .....	\$26,151 .....	3%
Equipment .....	\$27,118 .....	3%
Technology .....	\$43,500 .....	5%
Facilities.....	\$55,689 .....	6%
Marketing/Advertising .....	\$35,930 .....	4%
Salary Support.....	\$197,312 .....	22%
Walcamp Outdoor Education ....	\$40,241 .....	4%
<b>TOTALS.....</b>	<b>\$909,791 .....</b>	<b>100%</b>

biggest area of need. While the \$391,500 committed to scholarships for this year is our highest ever, it does not meet the amount requested by the schools, which exceeded \$465,000. Our schools are doing well, and the gifts are great, but the need is even greater.” The proceeds from CLEF’s black tie event on November 10 are used solely for scholarships. ☀

# OFF TO CAMP ONCE AGAIN

Fifth and sixth grade students from all over Chicago will once again be able to escape city traffic and retreat to the rural setting of Walcamp Outdoor Ministries in Kingston. This is a direct result of the generosity of a special gift from The Christopher Family Foundation, and will provide these students with an opportunity for Outdoor Education, just as students from more affluent suburban schools commonly do.

New to the program this year was the Educators' Night on August 13. Along with Diana Solís, CLEF Office Administrator, teachers hit the road for Walcamp directly after the Networking Conference. They toured the camp and got oriented to Walcamp protocol. They had a taste of a variety of Environmental Education and Life Skills classes available to their students when they visit Walcamp for their retreat later in the school year. The teachers enjoyed classes on Tree Identification, Animal Tracking and ID, Pioneer Skills and Canoeing, as

well as a game of carpet-ball, a night hike and Christian fellowship around the campfire. Fun stuff aside, they also met with Debra Hull, Walcamp registrar, to schedule their retreats for the coming school year.

Thanks to the Christopher Family's grant, every fifth and sixth grade class in our schools has the opportunity to attend. Twenty CLEF schools have already scheduled their retreats and four more still have to select dates. The cost of sending a child to camp involves not only the camp fees, but also transportation and supplies that many of our students don't own or have easy access to, such as: flashlights, sleeping bags, rain suits, and warm boots. If you would like to be a part of sending these students to Walcamp, a \$25 contribution will cover a souvenir pack of a sweatshirt, cap, and snacks, or help alleviate the programming costs. ☀

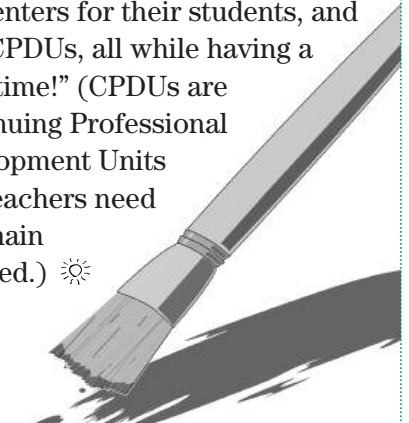


Look who is drawing and coloring now – the teachers!

## FUN AND GAMES AT THE MAKE IT TAKE IT WORKSHOP

More than 50 teachers proudly wore their creative hats on July 24 and 25 at CLEF's Make It Take It Workshop held at Gloria Dei Lutheran School, Chicago. Funded by CLEF, in conjunction with Chicago Community Trust, the workshop provided an opportunity for teachers to make various items to take back to their classrooms to make the educational environment more fun and visibly stimulating.

Sandy Wackenhuth, CLEF Education Coordinator, commented, "What a wonderful way for teachers to learn a quick skill to beautify their classrooms, provide games and centers for their students, and earn CPDUs, all while having a great time!" (CPDUs are Continuing Professional Development Units that teachers need to remain certified.) ☀



### YES! I want to change a life this month!

One-time gift of:  \$25  \$50  \$150  \$600  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly gift of:  \$25  \$50  \$150  \$600  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a monthly reminder.

Please charge my credit card:  Visa  Mastercard

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

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Congregation \_\_\_\_\_