

For: Immediate Release
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Principal Janet Bahr receives high praise and certification for completion of rigorous leadership program.

On Wednesday, September 4th, 2024, Dr. Leslie Smith, Program Director for the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation’s (CLEF) Principal 360 Leadership Development Training Program, released a Media Kit to all schools whose principals had successfully completed their rigorous leadership program. Principal 360 is an intensive 11-month leadership development training program, powered by CLEF, that develops and equips a united network of Lutheran school principals to be visionary, educational thought leaders, skilled at crafting and implementing a customized, comprehensive School Strategic Plans.

This extensive program is challenging and requires intense dedication and time commitment. Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church School ECDC is immensely proud of the completion of this program by its own School Principal- Mrs. Janet Bahr. JBahr, as she affectionately is known, completed the Principal 360 program while simultaneously managing daily school operations of staffing and academics, assisting in all aspects of a major 6.5 million dollar ECDC building project, completing the school’s 2023 Accreditation, co-leading the annual church & school auction, and other demanding DR tasks!

The program required principals to review and develop strategic plans under five courses: 1) Leading a Successful School in the 21st Century, 2) Leading Academic Excellence, 3) Strengthening and Managing School Finances, 4) Recruitment, Retention, and Marketing, and 5) Innovation in the Lutheran School. Enrolled principals were required, at the culmination of the program, to present their plans before the Principal 360 Board. Divine Redeemer Lutheran School is proud to announce that Principal Janet Bahr successfully completed this program and is now Principal 360 certified!

When questioned about importance of this program, Principal Bahr responded...

“Being nominated to participate in the Principal 360 program was a huge honor! The eleven-month program was demanding and challenging but the benefits that I received out of it made it all worthwhile. I’m so excited about the next three years and the strategic plan that is in place for Divine Redeemer Lutheran School and its amazing teachers and families! The main five initiative buckets are continuing to build our culture, planning for the needs of our campus, educational initiatives starting with auditing our reading program to make sure we are serving all types of readers, evaluating and restructuring our administrative needs, and continuing to use current marketing strategies to bring more families to DR to hear about Jesus! I’m so thankful to have Principal 360 cohorts and coaches from Lutheran schools across the country to share the joys and struggles of the demanding role of a principal. The ability to share best practices with each other is invaluable! It is an exciting time to be part of this amazing ministry of the church and school. I’m looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us the next three years and beyond!”