



LUMIN Schools
Ascension Lutheran Christian

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LUMIN Schools

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LUMIN opens 7th school, expanding into new market
*LUMIN Schools opens a new Lutheran school in Gary, Indiana
serving grades K5 - 2 in the 2017-18 school year*

October 25, 2017 (Milwaukee, Wis.) – For the first time, Milwaukee non-profit Lutheran Urban Mission Initiative, Inc. (LUMIN) has expanded outside of Wisconsin, opening the new Ascension Lutheran Christian School in Gary, Indiana this fall.

On August 16, LUMIN celebrated the exciting growth with an opening service celebrating the inaugural day of school at Ascension, located at 1150 W. 49th Avenue in Gary, Indiana.

Dick Laabs, president and CEO of LUMIN, said the opening of Ascension is an important development for Gary families.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to offer a Christian education to children in the Gary community," Laabs said. "We are blessed to work with our partner organizations to make this dream a reality."

Ascension will serve children in grades K-2nd at launch, with plans to expand grade levels in the future. The school is operated by LUMIN, owned by the Lutheran School Corporation of Indiana (LCSI), and meets in a building owned by Our Savior Lutheran Church (OSLC), the site of the former Gary Lutheran School.

Gary Lutheran school closed many years ago. Prior to the launch of Ascension, LSCI, OSLC and LUMIN addressed various deferred maintenance issues and funded a variety of upgrades and improvements to the facility.

The opening service featured the installation of staff, which includes Dr. Sue Zientara as principal, two teachers and an office administrator. The service began with a welcome and included singing, scripture reading and special guest speakers Rev. Delwyn Campbell, Strategic Mission Developer for Gary; Rev. John Albers, President of LCSI; Dr. Jon Mielke, Executive Counselor for Christian Education with the Indiana District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; and Richard Laabs, President and CEO of LUMIN Schools.

At the end of the service, everyone was invited outdoors for an aerial group picture, which will hang in the entryway of the school. The blessing of students, teachers and classrooms followed the opening service.

About LUMIN

Lutheran Urban Mission Initiative, Inc. (LUMIN) is a 501c(3) nonprofit corporation and a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). LUMIN operates five LCMS schools in Milwaukee; one Christian school in Racine with two campuses; and one LCMS school in Gary, Indiana; that serve students from low income families that participate in the Milwaukee and Racine Parental Choice Programs. LUMIN Schools provide safe, Christian schools focused on educational success, leadership development and spiritual growth; and are setting the standard for effective, Christ-centered, results oriented urban education. For more information, visit www.luminschools.org or find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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