

Central Lutheran School

“Building In Faith”

*We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith,
your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Thes 1:3)*

The Opportunity

Through God's blessings, Central Lutheran School has reached a pivotal point in its existence. Building on a heritage of 41 years of providing a quality, faith-based education to students and families in Benton and surrounding counties, it is time to take the next step in creating new structures and enhancing present facilities that will help support the growth of our students holistically: spiritually, physically, and academically.

About Central Lutheran School

Central Lutheran School (CLS) was founded in 1965 as part of the consolidation of several area Lutheran schools. It is a Pre-school thru 8th grade school with over 150 students. Primary support for CLS is provided by St. John of Newhall and St. Stephen's of Atkins, with additional support being provided by many of the remaining eight congregations in the local Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) Circuit. As a Christ-centered, Bible-directed educational community, CLS exists to assist all students in reaching their full potential as Christ's disciples.

Students, whose parents desire Christ-centered education, regardless of faith background, are welcomed as part of an inclusive school community. CLS is accredited by the State of Iowa and the National Lutheran School Association. It is also one of the approximately 2,400 LCMS Elementary and Early Childhood Lutheran Schools.

Project Scope

During the last five years, enrollment in the preschool program has been trending upward and retention of many of those preschoolers into the lower grades has been more successful. In addition, small, combined grades (5th/6th and 7th/8th) will be graduating, bringing our ability to combine grades to an end. The result is the school will outgrow its present facilities by the 07-08 school year. For these reasons, CLS today is seeking to add onto its existing facilities in Newhall. The project will consist of four components:

- 1. Addition of Classrooms:** With the size of the lower grades increasing, our ability to combine grades into one classroom has come to an end. In addition, the curriculum, especially in the areas of Technology, Art and Science, continues to expand, again increasing the need for space. This would add approximately 6,450 sq. ft. of classroom space and result in a classroom for each grade.
- 2. Addition of a Gymnasium:** Over the life of CLS, as the number of students has increased, the number of activities and athletic events has also increased. The current gym facilities no longer meet the needs of CLS. This component would result in the addition of a junior high school-sized gym. It will have several different configurations, making it useful for a variety of activities and athletic events, both for the school and the community. In addition to the gym, which would be approximately 10,365 sq. ft., parking space will be added.
- 3. Expansion of Kitchen Space:** Preparing meals for over 100 children daily is a time and space-consuming activity. This component expands the size, equipment and abilities

of the kitchen facilities to support food preparation for school and community activities in the existing and new gymnasium facilities, e.g., concessions. The square footage of the current kitchen would be more than doubled.

- 4. Increase the Endowment Fund Size:** As the size of the facility increases and the number of staff members also increases, it is imperative that we find additional ways to continue to fund the general budget of CLS without continuing to rely so extensively on our supporting congregations. Increasing the size of the Endowment Fund will aid the general budget on an ongoing, long-term basis through the generation of interest. The goal is to increase the Endowment Fund by at least \$500,000.

Estimated Project Cost Summary:

\$1,300,000	Estimated Building Costs (#1-3 Above)
+ 500,000	Towards Endowment Fund (#4 Above)
\$1,800,000	Estimated Project Size
- 250,000	Approximate Funds already Contributed
\$1,550,000	TOTAL PROJECTED NEED

Approximately 17,000 sq. ft. of new building space would be added. Funding will be sought from many sources including the 10 circuit congregations, families, alumni, matching gifts from employers, fundraisers, foundations, grants, etc. The project timeline will be determined in early 2007.

Why Your Participation

The leadership of CLS strongly believes that God loves this school and it should be open to all students, regardless of religious affiliation. The leadership team also believes this project is an integral part of God's plan. Through this project, the community in Benton and surrounding counties will continue to benefit by:

- Assisting and supporting the role of the family and Christian parents in building children of moral character and excellence
- Nurturing children's faith in the one true God and Savior
- Fulfilling the Bible's mandate to provide for the Christian education of children, as well as proclaiming the Gospel to parents and children who may not know Christ
- Providing a strong foundation for future success, whether college or career, placing men and women of integrity into the marketplace and academia
- Helping young individuals see all parts of life from the perspective of God's Word
- Strengthening congregations through developing new Christian leaders
- Providing a safe, caring environment in which children can learn
- Demonstrating the high value congregations place on raising children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord

Your support for CLS and this project comes in the form of your prayers, financial generosity, sacrificial giving and advocacy of Christian education in our communities. All of these are critical to the success of this study and project.