Overwhelming generosity marks Miracle Weekend offering

Wow! What a miracle! For the past month, the people of Central Lutheran Church have been joining in daily prayer at 10:10 a.m. and p.m. in thanksgiving to God for this congregation’s ministries and in anticipation of Miracle Weekend. Last weekend the church was filled with joyful worshipers celebrating Pentecost and Miracle Weekend. Our Sunday service also included Confirmation and the choir’s offering of Mozart’s Missa brevis in b flat. It was a wonderful time to gather together for worship.

With great delight in the power of God to bring unexpected miracles of grace and generosity, I am pleased to announce that we have received $66,381 as of Thursday of this past week!

This Miracle Weekend offering will significantly reduce the indebtedness remaining from this past year and set us on a firm financial foundation as we move into a new fiscal year on June 1. You will be provided with the exact details of the expenditures of this offering soon, which will include a tithe to some cause outside of our congregation.

In 2 Corinthians 9:11 we read, “You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.” We have trusted in God’s promises and experienced thanksgiving to God through our gift-giving. God gives from abundance and we have followed suit. May God continue to bless us so that we may be a blessing.

Gifts to the Miracle Weekend offering will be received through May 26. Use the special offering envelopes in the pew racks or note “Miracle Weekend” on your check.

You made a difference in ending homelessness

Advocacy efforts result in boost for housing services in state budget!

The 2013 Legislative Session officially ended on Monday with a $33 million boost for housing and homeless services in the state budget!

Housing programs received an increase of $25.9 million for 2014-2015, with $22 million of this increase for ongoing base funding in future budgets. This makes a total of $98 million in ongoing housing program funding!

Homeless funding received a $7 million increase in ongoing base funding to the $16.7 million in the budget for emergency services, transitional housing, supportive services, and homeless youth!

With bipartisan support, this budget increase of $33 million will:

• Fund essential programs of homeless prevention, affordable housing, rental assistance, homeowner assistance, and more.
• Impact thousands of Minnesotans by preventing or ending their homelessness and securing a safe, stable home.
• Improve the lives of youth, children, families, and seniors with housing.

Your advocacy this year made this possible! Your legislators heard about the concern of constituents to ensure that an investment in housing programs and homeless services is critical to the health of our community. Thank you for calls, signatures, visits and more! We made great gains, but still have more work to do to ensure housing stability in our community. See you next year!

Second Annual Appreciation Weekend — June 1/2

Next weekend we will gather to acknowledge and appreciate our collective gifts as people doing God’s work in the world. Special activities both days, including brunch on the plaza after church on Sunday! See enclosed card. Make your reservation as instructed.
**Datebook**

**Meetings, events, and opportunities just ahead.**

— more events at www.centralmpls.org

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**Monday, May 27**  
Memorial Day  
Building Closed

**Tuesday, May 28**  
Free Store  
10:00 a.m.  
General Staff Meeting  
10:15 a.m.  
St. Stephen’s Meeting  
1:30 p.m.  
Congregation Council Meeting  
5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 29**  
Free Store  
10:00 a.m.  
The Word in Our Midst  
2:00 p.m.

**Thursday, May 30**  
Augsburg Nursing  
Women’s Group  
10:30 a.m.  
Free Store  
11:00 a.m.  
Cabaret Ensemble Rehearsal  
5:00 p.m.  
Camp Amnicon Calling Night  
6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, June 1**  
Downtown Grief Coalition  
9:30 a.m.  
Central Cabaret  
6:30 p.m.

**Summer Building Hours Begin May 29**  
See the building hours sign, located on the South Commons doors, for the opening and closing time for each day—in effect until the week after Labor Day.

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**Every Week**

“**The Word in Our Midst**” Weekly Bible Study  
*Every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.*

This weekly Bible study, held in Fireside Lounge, focuses on the scripture texts for the coming weekend.

**Downtown Coalition for Grief Support**  
*Every Saturday morning*

The Downtown Coalition for Grief Support is meeting at Central until September at 9:30 a.m. each Saturday morning in the Lower Narthex. The speaker for June 1 is James Sewell, who will share information about the “Good Mourning Dance Suite”. Contact Joan Van Wirt at 612-333-3273 or visit www.mplsgriefsupport.com for more information.

**This Weekend**

**FINAL Pizza & Cookie Dough Pick-Up**  
*Sunday, May 26 at 11:00 a.m.*

This is the final day to pick up your pizza and cookie dough orders, which will be available in South Commons at 11:00 a.m. on May 26. If you are not available to pick up your items, please contact Greer at gcherney@centralmpls.org by Friday, May 31. **After that date, any items that remain will be given away.**

**VBS & Family Camp Sign Ups**  
*Sundays, May 26 and June 2*

Stop by the Youth & Family Ministry Team table on the North Plaza on these upcoming Sundays to sign up for VBS and/or Family Camp! Forms will be available at the Church Office during the week. Payment for these opportunities is due at the time you sign up.

**Next Weekend**

**Second Annual Cabaret (Sold Out!!)**  
*Saturday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m.*

The Cabaret is sold out. Please contact the Church Office if you’d like to be added to the waiting list.

**Looking Ahead**

**CPR & AED Education**  
*Thursday, June 6*

Do you need to be certified (or re-certified) for CPR and AED? Central’s Health Ministry Team will sponsor a training at Central on Thursday, June 6, in Room 222. If you are non-health personnel, the training will last two hours and the cost is $55.00. If you are health person-

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**Vacation Bible School - “Love Out Loud”**

All ages are invited to participate in this summer’s Vacation Bible School June 24-28 (Monday to Friday). We’ll gather for dinner at 5:00 in Fellowship Hall. Opening and closing music and prayer in the Sanctuary. Small group options for children and adults. Cost: $100 per family for the full week; or $30.00 per family per night; $20.00 per individual per night. **Registration forms available at the Church Office or at www.centralmpls.org.**

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