

Central Lutheran kicks off Capital Campaign with nearly \$4.5 million. Extraordinary Project. Extraordinary Commitment.

PRESS RELEASE

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Central Lutheran School in New Haven, Indiana kicked off its *“Thankful for Our Heritage - Committed to Our Future”* capital campaign in record style. As of January 9th, just over 100 families had already committed over \$4.42 million dollars. That total not only represents the best **kickoff** ever in Central’s history, it also represents about \$2 million more than the previous best campaign!



Students help announce the pledge total.

Growing enrollment in the day school, a relatively new but successful preschool, as well as some needs that have been put on the ‘back burner’ for over twenty years all combined to motivate Central Lutheran to take on one of the biggest projects since the school was built in 1952. The new master plan includes a much larger gymnasium, additional classrooms, a renovated and more secure entry and administrative space, as well as an early childhood center that will feature kindergarten and first grades as well as room for the rapidly expanding preschool. If finances permit, a new fine arts wing would also be added to accommodate Central’s award winning music program.

Altogether, the master plan would require over \$10 million in funding. In the fall of 2014 leadership at Central presented a more modest plan that would have only been about half this size, but the overwhelming opinion then was that they weren’t thinking “big enough.” So the building committee and architects went back to the drawing board and returned with a greatly expanded project that would address almost all the needs for this rapidly growing school for the next 30 or 40 years. Feedback from Central’s supporters was enthusiastic when it was presented during a 6 week Readiness Assessment conducted in August and September of 2015 by Klote & Associates, the capital stewardship firm partnering with Central for this project.

Jon and Carolyn Meyer serve as co-chairs of the campaign and were happy to report to the crowd of over 250 at the kickoff that Central Lutheran had already achieved a level of financial success that has never been seen before in the history of the school. “Extraordinary accomplishments cannot be achieved with ordinary commitments. What we’ve seen so far has been inspirational and we pray that will continue in the coming months,” said Jon Meyer.

Central Lutheran had good intentions in the past, particularly about building a new gymnasium. But each time, not enough dollars were committed in order to make the project a reality. “Part of the reason Carolyn and I agreed to lead this campaign,” said Jon Meyer, “is because we want to change that recent history. We see this as an opportunity to turn a new page.”



From Left: Principal Kevin Creutz, Co-chairs Jon & Carolyn Meyer, Consultant Steve Siegel

During the kickoff program Meyer outlined the next steps which include an every family visitation to go over the plans, receive feedback and to ask for financial support. “If only a little over 100 families could get us this far, think what all of our families and alumni could do,” said Meyer. Personal visits will continue through the winter and spring as well as opportunities for alumni to participate from anywhere in the country.



Afterwards, the association will meet to evaluate the results of the campaign and determine what, exactly, will be built with the dollars raised. “Hopefully,” said Principal Kevin Creutz, “we’ll raise the \$10 million and we can include everything in the plan.” Jon Meyer did tell the crowd at the kickoff that at this point, “there is no appetite by the school board, the association, or the leadership to take on any long term debt in order to finance the project.” “The money is here,” said Meyer, **“if we all participate sacrificially and if our alumni from around the country will help us, we can get the job done.”**

For additional information about the project and to see some video clips from the kickoff please visit the Central Lutheran website at www.cluth.org and click on the “About the School” Tab and then select “Capital Campaign.”