

The Mission Bell

Mission Statement - "By God's grace, Central City Lutheran Mission is a community of hope, healing, and empowerment in the heart of the city."

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring- 2014

Who are "the Homeless"?

Some faces and works of the homeless that you may or may not know. You can know them at CCLM
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Healing All Our Hungers

Everyone has a hunger that needs to be filled and a gift to be shared...that's...the power of the gospel.

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What's in an ID?

Birth Certificates, Driver's Licenses, and CA IDs are obtained to help homeless men find work & other possibilities. Find out who started the fund.

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CCLM Moments

On the road again. Computers for jobs & connections. Easter shoes for boys & girls.

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New House. New Shelter.

The buildings are the same, but the programs are new as CCLM enters new agreements with partners to help men experiencing reentry and homelessness.

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Summer Schedule

Mark your calendars for CCLM routine and special events.

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GIVE BIG ON MAY 8!



Who are "the Homeless"?

CCLM is blessed by donors, volunteers, student interns, and staff serving our community, including "the homeless".

But who are "the homeless"?

Getting to know our homeless neighbors is one of the great experiences of CCLM. If you are supporting CCLM, you are helping homeless individuals, and homeless individuals are helping the whole CCLM community:

- Help with grocery distribution. Work alongside homeless men sorting, packing and distributing food bags.
- Serve dinner at the men's shelter. See all ages, various races, physically fit and physically disabled. Grab a plate. Hear about a normal day – at work, college, a hospital, an agency, job-hunting, volunteering, walking – lots of walking.
- Return as a regular listener. Hear stories and life lessons from fathers, veterans, artists, laborers, former prisoners, and former business owners.
- Help in the computer lab. Find folks learning new computer skills, connecting with friends on Facebook, updating

resumes, researching resources, and searching for work. The lab is also supervised and was set up by homeless men with technical skills.

- Donate or sort items for the thrift store. Homeless men will unload, carry, and help others access those items. Among others, thrift items help homeless men and women who have no change of clothes and homeless men who are job searching and need work and interview attire.
- Paint a wall with your group. Meet homeless men who maintain and secure the shelter and grounds.
- Come volunteer with our after school kids. Some of those children may come from school to CCLM and go to living without a real home or where home is a vehicle.

These are the homeless: Men, women, children, seniors, parents. Pregnant, disabled, able-bodied. Employed, college students, job-seekers. Former home owners & former business owners.

Your financial, material, and time donations provide shelter, meals, clothing, tutoring, referrals, case management, and other supportive services for the homeless.

From November through March, 250 men stayed in the shelter. Of those 51 found more appropriate housing.

CCLM is actively planning how to be an increasingly effective resource to our homeless neighbors and to our struggling City of San Bernardino. You are critical to that plan.

At CCLM, we aren't limited to a stereotype of homelessness. We have homeless residents, neighbors, friends, and colleagues - collaborators in realizing the expression of each person's gifts, homeless or housed, here in community.



Spirit of Hope and Lutheran Church of Our Savior youth from San Bernardino partner up to paint.

Healing All Our Hungers

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

– Luke 15:1-2 (NIV)

These verses create the context for the three great parables of the lost coin, the lost sheep, and the lost son in Luke 15. Some religious people are pretty sure that Jesus is hanging out with the wrong crowd. He is even eating with them! Jesus uses their judgment as the catalyst for the most fundamental teachings in Christendom. The Lord's table is chock full of riff raff.

One of the great blessings of serving at CCLM is that I have the opportunity to visit many congregations in the greater Southern California area each Sunday morning and then return to our evening worship service in San Bernardino. That means that on some Sundays I am in the wealthiest and the poorest communities on the same day. I have found two things to be true.

1. *Although the scriptures speak to both contexts, they can have different meanings for each community.*
2. *Hunger is not limited to communities that are economically poor.*

Our food program at CCLM fed over 43,000 meals in 2013. There are many physically hungry people in our neighborhood. Yet physical hunger is only part of their pain. People in our community also yearn for meaning, acceptance, dignity, and love. These other hungers are abundantly present in communities of privilege too.

Jesus' practice of eating with the outcast is instructive. He could have lined them up and fed them and the Pharisees might have praised his charity. But when he sat down and ate with them, he was simultaneously addressing the deeper spiritual hungers and drawing the ire of the religious elite.

It is no great revelation to point out that rich people are hungry too. What I think may be revolutionary is connecting the hungry poor with the hungry rich. When we break down the false roles of "giver" and "taker" and realize that everyone has a hunger that needs to be filled and a gift to be shared, we tap into the power of the gospel. Something

transformational happens when we go beyond the roles of charity and simply share a meal together.

Jesus must have known this and that makes his willingness to "eat with sinners" an act of transformation. Like his encounter with the Syro-Phoenician woman, Jesus learns from the wisdom and faith of others. His understanding of God was shaped by this practice of table fellowship. His hunger was fed. May we follow this pattern and bring both our hungers and our resources to the common table. – *Pastor David Nagler*



Pops greets Sunday dinner guests

What's in an ID?

You may have seen James working in the CCLM kitchen, up to his gloved elbows in dishes. James asked for help to replace his CA ID when his wallet went missing and he had an appointment that would require ID.

That happens a lot to our guys. Conditions on the street - theft, loss of relationships, lack of storage, street sweeps, and the corrections process can all result in losing identification. Lack of ID is a significant barrier in obtaining employment, medical & legal services, and benefits. About 1/3 of the men admitted to the shelter - men with legal residence - do not have a form of identification.

So CCLM paid \$8 for James' ID. When James came across \$10, he wanted to pay the \$8 back. He was told he was paid up, so he did not need to pay it back. But he wanted to give back, so he was told that he could pay it forward for someone else. That was the first \$8 of the Identification Fund. It was matched by a donor who agreed to match donations from homeless participants who followed his lead. Another donor agreed to add funds.

So far donor funds have helped acquire over 40 forms of identification for homeless men.

CCLM Moments



Early one morning:

As the man left the shelter, he didn't know when he might return. Soon he'll get his own vehicle and place. Thanks to donor funds, he renewed his commercial driver's license, and had a safe place to stay as he returned to long-distance truck driving. CCLM was the place to stop on the journey until our friend could get back on the road again.

On weekday afternoons:



Computer Lab: Open daily 1pm-3pm and used for classes, job training, after school program, and case management

On Good Friday:



New shoes, socks, & toys, as part of the annual Easter egg hunt.

New Life

Picture this: You are alone. No financial resources. Your family won't talk to you. You have to leave where you have been living. You had regular meals, a bed, friends, status. Now you have none of that. The few dollars you had are gone. You have a choice. You could return to the lifestyle that supported you before. With little effort, you could go back to the type of place you were living and have regular meals, bed, and status. Or you could seriously humble yourself, ask for help, with a very difficult path, and no promises.

What would you do?

Various agencies, advocacy organizations, and non-profit organizations are working to provide better choices for people coming out of our corrections systems. These efforts include temporary housing, job retraining, case management, and other forms of support, rather than returning formerly incarcerated individuals to the street with a high likelihood of having to resort to reoffending.

CCLM has joined in these larger system of efforts by designating one of our houses to students in the Cal State Reentry Initiative. Restoration. CCLM is providing meals, housing, and a night housing manager. Justice. Forgiveness. New Life. Happy Easter.

Good News! New Shelter Program



Central City Lutheran Mission has received permission from the City of San Bernardino to operate a homeless men's emergency shelter **not** limited to the coldest 6 months of the year. The new program will provide short-term emergency shelter (up to 90 days), meals, and clothing while participants are referred to other housing programs and service providers.

This is a first step in a bold new step of faith in which CCLM envisions working with all of its community members and partners to build a facility and a program that will more effectively relate to other services in the Inland Empire.

Thank You to ALL
our Volunteers,
Donors,
Supporters,
and Mission
Partners.



Lord of Life, Moreno Valley

God's Work, Our Hands

September 7th of 2014 is "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. We gratefully welcome participants looking for a service project. To work on a CCLM project, call the office at (909) 381-6921.

CCLM Grant Funders:

- ◆ Bank of America
- ◆ CalState Re-entry Initiative (CSRI)
- ◆ Community Foundation
- ◆ Dignity Health
- ◆ Diocese of San Bernardino
- ◆ ELCA Foundation
- ◆ Emergency Food & Shelter Program
- ◆ Housing Opportunities for People w/AIDs
- ◆ Kaiser Foundation
- ◆ Mary Ann Brunner Foundation
- ◆ Pacifica Synod/ELCA
- ◆ SANBAG/Omnitrans
- ◆ San Bernardino City
 - Unified School District
 - Emergency Solutions Grant
 - Community Dev Block Grant
- ◆ San Bernardino County ESG
- ◆ Southern CA Edison
- ◆ Stater Bros
- ◆ Thrivent Financial
- ◆ Valley Transportation Services
- ◆ Walmart
- ◆ Union Pacific
- ◆ US Dept Housing & Urban Dev



Cal State SB Coyote Volunteers



Summer Schedule

Aerobics
Tues, Wed, Thurs, & Fri at 9 am

Community Free Meal
Monday-Friday at noon

Contemplative Prayer
Wednesdays at 8:30 am

Food Pantry
1st & 3rd Tues at 8 am

ESL
Tues & Thurs at 6 pm

Worship
Weekly evening worship
continues through May each
Sunday.

Our summer worship schedule
will have monthly worship on
the following Sundays:

June 8
July 13
August 17

Join us at 5 pm
Worship service concluding with
a community meal open to all.

Give BIG San Bernardino County

is a 24-hour online giving
campaign culminating on
5/8/2014.

It allows you to give to your
favorite nonprofits in San
Bernardino County.



Please support CCLM and share
this information with your friends
so we can share our work to a
wider audience.

CCLM is participating at
[http://givebigsbcounty.razoo.com/
story/Central-City-Lutheran-
Mission](http://givebigsbcounty.razoo.com/story/Central-City-Lutheran-Mission)

Or

<http://bit.ly/1gkkXid>



Central City Lutheran Mission

For a calendar and other
information, visit www.cclm.org
or call (909) 381-6921.



Central City Lutheran Mission

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