

FALL 2016



In This Issue...

New Semester Abroad Program Comunicando Cristo Martin Luther: Radical Reformer

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Charles Degner WLS '79 Randy Matter Paul Prange WLS '88 Mark Schroeder WLS '81 Mark Zarling WLS '80 Within these walls we speak the ancient creed; One Spirit, one conviction: "We believe." We stand with saints of every time and place: Our voices echo centuries of faith.*

Our Voices Echo Centuries of Faith



By MLC President Mark Zarling WLS '80

"I believe."

Every Sunday the gathering of believers rises to publicly confess the truth of the one saving faith. The language might be English or Mandarin, German or Tonga, Swedish or Japanese.

All over the globe, in gatherings large and small, people unite their voices to confess: "I believe in God the Father Almighty."

In one such gathering, an octogenarian might struggle to keep pace with the rapid recitation of the creed. Though weak in voice and weak in the knees, his heart still beats firmly in the saving faith that Jesus is Savior Lord.

A few pews back, a toddler is straining against Dad's arm. Yet a few words come from her mouth as well: "And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord."

On the other side of church, a rabid sports fan thinks of the kickoff in another hour, but then his concentration is called back as he recites: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church."

Week after week, in places and languages all over the globe, a miracle occurs. People young and old raise a refrain of faith, joining Abraham and Moses, Paul and Peter, Luther and Chemnitz, in confessing the existence of the one and only Lord.

Week after week, the Holy Spirit continues to build up believers in Christ through the gospel of salvation.

With the apostle we ponder this up-building of the Holy Christian Church throughout time and place. We can be confident that this church stands firm and secure. It will not crumble or crack. It will not be buildozed over by the trends of the time nor the temptations of the trendy. The church stands secure now and until the trumpet sounds forth, because it is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord (Ephesians 2:20-21).

We marvel that God uses us sinners as workers with the Word for the Spirit's construction efforts upon precious souls. Please pray with me that God richly bless the preparation of future workers at Martin Luther College, that always here "our voices echo centuries of faith."

* From "Within These Walls" by Laurie F. Gauger DMLC '87

On our cover:

Sarah Frost '16 is a new early childhood teacher in Wausau, Wisconsin.

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All *InFocus* magazines are online at **mlc-wels.edu/ publications**. If you'd like to receive your magazine electronically ONLY, please let us know. Contact Tami at **boardtl@mlc-wels.edu**.

The alumni photos at the bottom of the pages are from the anniversary classes of MLC, NWC, and DMLC: '42, '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07, and '12. Thanks to Alumni Director Steve Balza *DMLC* '93, who provided this random selection of alumni.



Paul H Hoenecke NWC 1952 Sturgis MI



Stacy L Scott MLC 2002 Bay City MI



Michael D Bahn DMLC 1972 Wood Lake MN

2016-2017 Martin Luther College Governing Board



Back row: John Kolander WLS '91 (vice chair), Steven Vasold MLC '02, Charles Degner WLS '79 (Minnesota District president), Michael Valleau, Joe Archer DMLC '78, Duane Schmeichel WLS '91, Michael Woldt WLS '81 (chair), Timothy Petermann; front row: Mark Zarling WLS '80 (MLC president), David Uhlhorn MLC '99, Michael Seifert WLS '03, Randy Matter (advisory), Michael Lindemann WLS '91, Steven Rosenbaum DMLC '86 (secretary), Dale Krause, Paul Prange WLS '88 (Ministerial Education administrator); not pictured: Mark Schroeder WLS '81 (WELS president) and Barry Price

Governing Board Action in September 2016

- Fund Designation: Designated \$6.52 million in unrestricted net assets to tuition assistance (\$2.79 million), deferred financing (\$79,500), program/emergency maintenance (\$100,000), faculty position (\$100,000), and the Economic Sustainability Fund (\$3.45 million).
- **Tuition:** Approved fee increases of 5% for 2017-18, bringing tuition, room and board to \$20,470. Also approved a corresponding 5% increase in institutional financial assistance.
- **Budget:** Approved budgets for fiscal years 2018 (\$21.5 million) and 2019 (\$22.4 million). Both budgets include an estimated \$3.3 million in synod subsidy, and both are deficit budgets, requiring the use of reserve funds.
- **Faculty:** Approved the following calls to replace 2017 retirees: two math professors, a music professor, a social studies professor, and an academic computing director. Also approved an additional history professor.
- **Student Financial Aid:** Approved expansion of the Congregational Partner Grant Program to include sophomores as well as first-year students.
- Capital Campaign: Acknowledged with gratitude the Conference of Presidents' recent designation of MLC as the special partner of the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving in 2019-21 for a capital campaign to address campus construction needs. The campaign corresponds with the 25th anniversary of MLC in 2019-2020.

New Board Member

Michael Lindemann WLS '91 has served as pastor at St. John-Lewiston MN for the last 18 years.



"I appreciate the education that I received and want

to do what I can so that the next generation can have it also," he says of his new role on the MLC Governing Board. "It's exciting to see the blessings and gifts of God that he has given to the MLC students—so many gifts and the willingness to put them into service to the Lord."



Rita Petrowsky DMLC 1962 Wayne MI



Jeffrey D E**nderle** MLC 1997 Lee's Summit MO



Rachel L Perry MLC 2002 Houston TX



Vernon Gerlach DMLC 1942 <u>Arlington</u> MN

here on the

MLC a "Great College to Work For"

Martin Luther College was recognized as a 2016 Great College to Work For, a ranking sponsored by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and ModernThink LLC. Only 93 colleges in the nation earned this distinction.

MLC employees evaluated the college in 12 different categories in an April 2016 survey. The results revealed high employee satisfaction in four areas:

- Compensation & Benefits
- Confidence in Senior Leadership
- Facilities, Workspace, and Security
- Job Satisfaction

"Our students, faculty, and staff are deeply committed to the mission of this institution: training pastors, teachers, and staff ministers for service in WELS," said Human Resources Director Andrea Wendland. "They care for this beautiful campus, and they serve their Lord faithfully, with humility and respect."

"It's a distinct honor for MLC to be noted," President Mark Zarling said. "But as Christians we remember that Scripture says, 'It is God who works in you to will and to do of his good pleasure.' How gracious is our Savior God that he provides such dedicated personnel who understand and support the Great Commission mission we have. It is my prayer that we are good stewards also of this tremendous blessing from Jesus, and strive to support and encourage our staff in their service to MLC."

Read the article at **chroniclegreatcolleges.com/recognized-institutions**.

Fall 2016 Enrollment

UNDERGRAD
742
GRADUATE STUDIES & CONTINUING EDUCATION
1044

550 Education

172 Preseminary

6 Staff Ministry

14 Other

742 Undergraduate Enrollment

National Distinctions

NATIONALLY RANKED COLLEGE

#3 Martin Luther College was ranked #3 in the nation for most affordable online master's programs in education by The Best Master's Degrees, a website devoted to grad program information sharing.

#5 Martin Luther College was ranked #5 in the nation for affordability by MONEY magazine. In addition, MLC made the top 100 in MONEYs "Best Colleges" list.

We're grateful to those who made this possible—the people of WELS led by God to "excel in the grace of giving."

First-Year Students' First Impressions



Arianna Sanchez

(WISCO / St. Peter-Milwaukee WI)
My favorite thing would have to be Monday
night Compline. It's such a great time to reflect
on the Word of God.



Jonah Backus

(New London HS / Emmanuel-New London WI) MLC is an amazing environment for learning and being encouraged in the faith, all the while filling my stomach on anything a college student could want.



Urvin Lewis

(LPS / St. John-St. John's, Antigua) It's been great to meet new friends and be reunited with old ones!



Iulia Schibbelhut

(Luther / St. Paul-Onalaska WI)
I've already fallen in love with MLC. It's been such a blessing to meet so many amazing
Christian friends and professors here!



Anne Rank DMLC 1982 Lincoln NE



Joseph Johnson NWC 1992 Yakima WA



Elsie **Zierzow** DMLC 1947 Two Rivers WI



Gary Griep NWC 1972 Livonia MI

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE MLCMIC



International Students Enrolled at MLC

In 2016-2017, students from six different countries are preparing for the ministry at MLC.

Taking the Gospel Global

Seven 2016 graduates chose to serve overseas. We wish them God's blessings as they share the Word all over the globe.

Shane Bundy (St. Paul-Livonia MI) to Southeast Asia
Evodia Cassius (Trinity-Castries, St. Lucia) to St. Lucia
Julie Kent (Atonement-Milwaukee) to Antigua
Katherine Kobs (Emanuel-Tawas City MI) to Southeast Asia
Andrew Krieger (Holy Word-Austin TX) to Russia
Megan Lepke (St. Peter-Chaseburg WI) to Antigua
Caleb Solofra (CrossWalk-Laveen AZ) to Peru
Tim Walsh (St. Paul-Onalaska WI) to Peru

Call for Thalassa Submissions

Martin Luther College has now begun accepting submissions for the eleventh annual Thalassa Prize. This \$1000 prize is awarded to the best photo-and-essay submission from an MLC student or graduate who has served in an international ministry.

Submission guidelines: mlc-wels.edu/thalassa
Deadline: April 15, 2017

See all the winning entries plus additional photos in the special anniversary publication, *Martin Luther College Thalassa Prize* 2007-2016, at mlc-wels.edu/go/thalassa-10.



2016 Golf Classic

The MLC Golf Classic proved another success as 129 golfers hit the links at the New Ulm Country Club and teed up thousands of dollars for student scholarships and campus beautification.

Among them were the Zarling Foursome: MLC **President Mark Zarling** *WLS* '80 and his brothers **Tom** *WLS* '69, Fred, and (putting for a birdie) **Phil** *WLS* '70.

In the 24-year history of the Classic, community golfers and friends of MLC have raised \$750,000 for the college. Next year is the 25th year of the Classic. Scratch golfers, duffers, and all in between are invited to the June 12, 2017, event!



Elton Huebner NWC 1942 Manitowoc WI



Jessica Herlich MLC 1997 Manito IL



Timothy Schumann NWC 1972 Watertown Wi



James M Carlisle MLC 1997 Yucca Valley CA



New Series Brings World-Class Chamber Music to the Hill

Eli Kalman, Bruce Atwell, and Yuliya Smead (*pictured*) had the honor of playing the inaugural concert of the new Summit Avenue Music Series on the MLC campus.

The series is the brainchild of two MLC professors, Dr. Bethel Balge and Professor **Grace Hennig** *DMLC* '89, who wanted to bring world-class chamber music to southern Minnesota. Concerts are held in the architecturally beautiful and acoustically vibrant Chapel of the Christ, and tickets are economically priced.

The trio performed a program including Brahms, Beethoven, and Franck at the September 11 concert.

Two more concerts will fill out the first year of the series:

- February 4: Bekesh Trio playing Haydn, Schumann, Joaquin Turina, and Astor Piazolla
- March 26: Peter McGuire and Friends playing Schubert

The hope is that the series will not only become a regular feature of southern Minnesota's musical culture, but will also enhance the music education of the student body through high-level live music experiences.



Sem Students Offer Encouragement

Charlie Crass '16 and Paul Spaude '13 were two of seven Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary students who visited MLC preseminary students in Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Spanish, and Chinese classes in October. Three times a year, seminary students come back here to the hill to offer insight and encouragement to the young men still in the early legs of their journey to the pulpit.



Ladies' Auxiliary Pledge Support

The MLC Ladies' Auxiliary held their annual fall meeting October 15. This year they pledged more than \$30,000 for two dozen projects—in addition to their standing projects: MLC scholarships, Daylight USA, and the MLC library. To learn more about this active organization, visit mlc-wels.edu/ladies-auxiliary.

Mahtob Mahmoody Shares Story



Mahtob Mahmoody spoke in the Wittenberg Collegiate Auditorium the morning and evening of September 14. Mahtob and her mother, Betty, endured 18 months of confinement in Iran at the hand of Mahtob's Iranian father in the late 1980s. She shared her message of hope and inspiration and introduced her new book, My Name Is Mahtob.



Lorna Ehlke DMLC 1957 Milwaukee WI



Philip J BigelowMLC 2002
Lake Villa IL



Christina M Bare MLC 2012 Owosso MI



Paul H Kock DMLC 1952 Rockford MN



Convocation Speakers

We welcomed these called workers who came back to campus and shared their wisdom and encouragement with our students.

AUGUST

Kyle BenderDMLC '93 (pictured with some MLC education majors)

The Principal Training Program

SEPTEMBER

Dan Witte WLS '92

The Pastor as Worship Leader

OCTOBER

Cindi Holman DMLC '77, Jim Rademan DMLC '82, Tom Plitzuweit DMLC '77, MLC '16

The Commission on Lutheran Schools

NOVEMBER

Rebecca Flad '13

My First Years in the Teaching Ministry

NOVEMBER

David Scharf WLS '04, Nathan Scharf WLS '07

Brothers (Literally) From the School to the Parish, From the Parish to the School

Pulling Out All the Stops

World-renowned organist Tom Bell gave a concert on the Schantz organ in Chapel of the Christ on October 7. He also gave a master class to three students from MLC, two from Bethany Lutheran College-Mankato MN, and one from Gustavus Adolphus College-St. Peter MN.

The chosen MLC students— **Lucas Krogmann** (St. Paul-

Ixonia WI), **Gabriel Plocher** (St. Luke-Vassar MI), and **Lydia Wassermann** (Mt. Calvary-La Crosse WI)—played Bach and
Mendelssohn, and Professor Bell critiqued their performances as
other students and organ professors observed.

DID YOU KNOW? One half of MLC students take piano or organ lessons. One third sing in a choir, one tenth play in the wind symphony, and one tenth participate in the fall musical.

Perennial Favorites Play to Full House









The Divers, an indie-folk group from Mankato, Minnesota, gave their 10th concert to a full house in the Wittenberg Auditorium in October.



Danielle L Kramer MLC 2007 Sleepy Eye MN



John Vogt NWC 1967 Bradenton FL



Cynthia Unke DMLC 1982 Manitowoc WI



Timothy R Mills NWC 1982 Flint MI



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

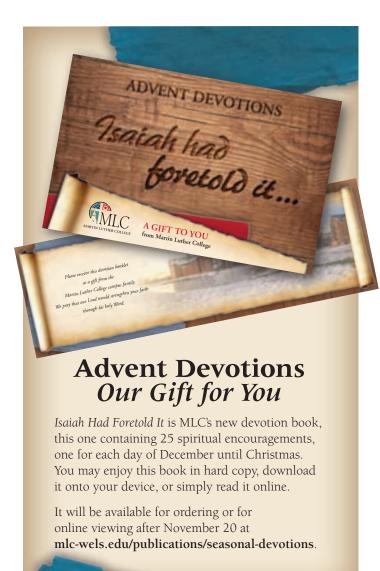
December 3, 7:30 pm & December 4, 4:00 pm MLC CHAPEL OF THE CHRIST



Martin Luther College Choir Texas Tour

Fri, Feb 24	7:00	Calvary-Dallas
Sat, Feb 25	7:00	Abiding Word-Houston
Sun, Feb 26	10:00 7:00	Christ the Lord-Sienna Plantation* Victory of the Lamb-Katy
Mon, Feb 27	7:00	Redeemer-Edna
Tue, Feb 28	7:00	Our Savior-San Antonio
Wed, Mar 1	7:00	Holy Word-Austin
Thu, Mar 2	7:00	Immanuel-Fort Worth
Fri, Mar 3	7:00	Shepherd of the Plains-Lubbock
Sat, Mar 4	7:00	Shepherd-Albuquerque NM

^{*} Worship service



Focus On \hat{hat}



By Sports Information Director Michael Gibbons



The MEN'S SOCCER team entered the season with high expectations thanks to the return of a number of key players. The Knights jumped out to an 8-4-1 start to the season, including a 3-1-1 record in conference play. Aaron Markgraf (Beautiful Savior-Cincinnati), Aaron Swanson (Resurrection-Rochester MN), and Joseph Graumann (Bethany-Fort Atkinson WI, pictured) led the offense, while goalkeeper Caleb King (St. John-Lomira WI) set a new program record with four straight shutouts to start October.



The **VOLLEYBALL** team also entered the season with high expectations and opened conference play with four straight wins. Juniors Jade St. Germaine (St. Mark-Watertown WI) and **Kira Grev** (Divinity-St. Paul) led the attack for the third straight year, while senior libero Emily Neeb (Peace-Queen Creek AZ, pictured) became the ninth player in program history to record 1,000 career digs.



Youth was served this season on the FOOTBALL field, as 30 newcomers joined the roster. The Knights struggled on the field, but gained valuable experience they hope will lead to great success in future seasons.



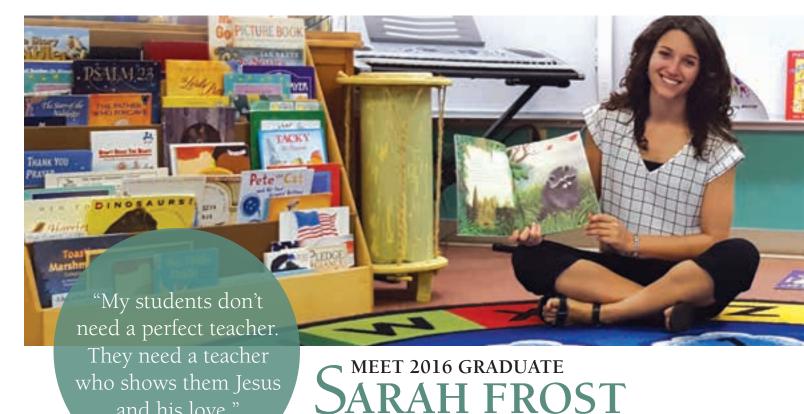
WOMEN'S SOCCER player **Jenna Maurer** (Good Shepherd-South Attleboro MA, pictured) also reached milestones this fall, becoming the fourth player in program history to record 100 career points. She also ranks third in program history with 49 career goals.



The GOLF teams concluded their season at the UMAC Championships in early October. Josh Hansen (St. Martin-Watertown SD, pictured) finished his career with a fourth-place finish at the event and was named All-UMAC for the fourth straight season. First-year women's golfer Alison Lindemann (St. John-Lewiston MN) tied for ninth at the event.



In CROSS COUNTRY Sydney Cody (St. John-Juneau WI) and Rachel Winter (Immanuel-Manitowoc WI) led the women, while veterans **Darian Schnose** (St. Paul-Livonia MI) and Justin Wilkens (Bethlehem-Manassas VA) led a men's team that also featured talented newcomers Ben Bitter (St. John-Milwaukee, pictured) and Ryan Gurgel (Calvary-Thiensville WI). The men's and women's teams were picked third and fifth, respectively, in the UMAC preseason polls, and as of this writing, they're gearing toward the conference championships at the end of October.



BS Education: Elementary Ed & Early Childhood Ed

Sarah Frost (Mt. Olive-Appleton WI) didn't always want to be a teacher. In fact, she says she was "dead set against it." But with the encouragement of her parents, teachers, and pastors, she took the leap. After graduating in May with a double major (early childhood and elementary ed), she was assigned as the early childhood director and lead teacher for 3K-4K at St. Paul-Tomah, Wisconsin.

We interviewed Sarah in August, just before school started.

and his love."

Sarah, what are you most excited about? Everything about your first call is exciting. Moving to a new city, becoming part of a new congregation, having all new experiences—it makes the years of studying and training meaningful and appreciated. But by far, I'm most excited to teach the children about the love of their Savior. Over half the families are not members at St. Paul, and a good percentage of them don't have a home church. What a wonderful opportunity to plant the seed and let the Holy Spirit do his work!

Are you nervous? I'm most nervous about the first week. Starting preschool is a huge transition for both the children and their families. The first week will be about building relationships and getting into a comfortable routine. No longer is there a veteran teacher in the classroom for me to turn to for guidance. I'm it now!

What have you done to prepare? I did inventory and sorted materials and toys—and preschool rooms need a ton of both! Then I rearranged the two preschool rooms, made block plans, and prepped materials for teaching.

You're also the director. What are your administrative tasks? I'm keeping track of tuition payments, creating a budget, writing policies for the program, drawing up plans for a summer program, and learning other aspects of my administrative position.

Did MLC prepare you for all this? The education I received at MLC was truly of the highest quality. We were given real-life advice along with textbook learning, so I don't feel overwhelmed. We were told we'd hit the ground running as first-year teachers, and I couldn't describe the past two months any better.

What's the most important thing you learned at MLC? How important relationships are. I've already established strong relationships with my faculty and congregation. My goal is to continue growing relationships with my students and their families, and then in the community. Most important, MLC engrained in me that my relationship with my Savior is my first priority. I know that it is God who works through me, and his love is what touches hearts.



Moldenhauer Watertown WI



Schneider DMLC 1992 Savanna IL



David **DMLC 1982** Ghent NY



Bay City MI



Any surprises? What's most surprised me is how much trust and confidence people put in new teachers. Not that I was expecting the opposite, but in my mind I'm very aware that I am a first-year teacher. Yet teachers in the field and congregation members respect the training that MLC graduates receive and listen to their input and experiences. What an encouragement that's been!

What kind of teacher do you hope to be? I'd love to be the perfect teacher: the one who's always calm, always knows the right thing to say, always plans lessons that are engaging, and always has life organized. However, I realize that my students don't need a perfect teacher. They need a teacher who shows them Jesus and his love, who points them to the cross when they sin, and who is willing to grow right alongside them. I want to be the teacher who wakes up each day assured that God's grace is sufficient and that his power is made perfect in my weakness, so that I can enjoy each day with my students and show them the love of their Savior.

Finally, did you always want to be a teacher? No. In fact, I was dead set against MLC. However, God's thoughts are higher than my thoughts, and he blessed me with parents, teachers, and pastors who taught me about my Savior and encouraged me to use my gifts in service to God and others. No matter what path we as God's children choose in life, we know that our Savior is in control and gives us countless opportunities to praise him with our lives and to share the message of his grace.

- Adapted from MLC KnightWatch, Fall 2016

WHAT IS "ONE MISSION, ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES"?

A Message for High School Students from Director of Admissions Mark Stein DMLC '92

This fall we welcomed a large class of new students. It's always exciting to see this gathering of young Christians willing to consider public ministry. Some are convinced of their goal to



serve the church, others are not so sure, and still others are just looking for a place to play football or sing in a choir or be with other Christian leaders. The point is, our campus is full of young Christian leaders looking for an opportunity.

The big question for each of them is "What is my opportunity?"

Most students struggle with this question during the transition from high school to college—and even into the college years. What's unique about MLC is that although we have a single mission, it allows for *endless* opportunities—even more than you can conceive of right now.

Our one mission is to produce workers for the church. That single focus is rare these days. Most colleges and universities have many things to offer, many degrees and colleges on one campus. But MLC, like many of the first colleges in the United States now known as Ivy League institutions, was founded for that one mission.

Now, those ideas may seem to clash: MLC is a single-focused institution, but the opportunities are endless?

Let's look at it this way. Being a pastor, teacher, or staff minister is just a label. What we do is *ministry*, and we do it all over the world. Teaching, preaching, and serving take many forms: teaching English as a second language, coaching, counseling, leading Bible class—all are types of ministry, and there are endless opportunities to add to this list!

This is where our Heavenly Father comes into the picture. Our Father loves you and has your future in his hands. He provides the opportunities for you—opportunities that put your gifts to good use for the kingdom.

If you want to serve others, if you have leadership skills, if you like interacting with people, MLC may be the place for you!

From Milwaukee to Asia, from California to Africa, from Michigan to Europe, this college in Minnesota, MLC, provides endless opportunities to serve while sticking to its one mission. Come and try it for yourself!

God bless you and see you soon!



Ivan Pingel DMLC 1977 Lansing MI



Matthew A Tomfohrde MLC 2007 Rochester MN



Cecilia Diaz Delgadillo MLC 2012 Bogotá, Colombia



Ames L Borree NWC 1957 Fremont WI



Something few people know about **Jessica** (**Rozek**) **Zahrt** is that she's a twin. Jessica's twin sister has some cognitive disabilities, and, growing up, Jessica saw how other kids sometimes picked on her. Maybe that's why Jessica is the teacher she is today, one who not only molds little minds but also massages little hearts with the gospel, helping her students grow more kind and loving every day.

Through the MLC graduate program, Jessica has done some growing herself as well.

Jessica teaches K-1 at Our Savior's in Wausau, Wisconsin, and, like many early childhood educators—especially multi-grade educators—her day is a highly choreographed dance. Children move from teacher-led skill-building activities to student-centered exploration centers. They use computers, do science "experiments," explore the world in social studies, and make art. They take brain breaks with music and movement, listen to read-alouds, sing songs, go out for recess, and have quiet rest and reading time. All of this is bracketed by the all-important Bible story time, afternoon devotion, and closing prayer.

"I love what I do," she says, "and can't imagine being anywhere else! There's nothing better than seeing progress in young students' academic and social skills and watching their knowledge of God and faith in him grow!

"Especially with young children," she continues, "I feel my role extends far beyond the book. It's a privilege to teach them to be servants with a heart for God and his people. My daily reminder to them is 'kind and loving.' How should we act? 'Kind and loving.' What kind of words do we speak? 'Kind and loving.'"

Jessica did not begin teaching immediately after her graduation from MLC in December 2002. She got married to Kevin Zahrt, had three children—Isaac, Sabrina, and Karsten, now 15, 14, and 11—and began teaching part-time only when Karsten began preschool. When all three were in school full-time, she began looking into master's programs.

"From what I found, MLC was the best fit for me. I loved the undergrad education I had received there, which was focused on God's Word and ministering to children and their families. I knew that the professors and my fellow students would understand me and my perspective as a called teacher at a small WELS elementary school. I believed they'd help me grow not only in my knowledge of education but also as a servant of Christ.

"MLC's completely online format was also convenient for me as a busy mom and teacher, and from what I found, also the most economical choice for our budget. It was an easy decision!"



David C NaumannMLC 2002
Benton Harbor MI



Hedy Haar MLC 1977 Saginaw MI



Thomas Siegel DMLC 1967 Neshkoro WI



Stacı Meier MLC 1997 Phoenix AZ

Another easy decision for Jessica was coupling her master's degree courses with post-baccalaureate licensure courses. MLC's post-baccalaureate program allows teachers who have graduated from DMLC or MLC with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree to be eligible for their initial Minnesota teaching license or an add-on to an existing Minnesota license. This is especially important for teachers who graduated before 2002 or who haven't taught in a while.

Several courses in the master's program apply also to the post-bacc licensure program, making it easy to accomplish both at the same time.

Jessica calls it a two-for-one benefit for her ministry. "I wanted to get a state teacher's license to show I have the knowledge and skills to be a professional teacher," she says. State licensure augments her credibility as a teacher and, by extension, her school's credibility as well.

Jessica began her MS Ed (leadership emphasis) in 2012 and graduated in 2016. "I most enjoyed the camaraderie of learning with fellow Christian teachers who are in classrooms so similar to mine! They understand our shared mission and focus in education, as well as difficulties that we sometimes encounter. These classmates, along with caring professors, encouraged me in my ministry to grow, improve, and faithfully continue to 'run the race'" (Hebrews 12:1).

Jessica notes many benefits to her ministry:

- "The master's program increased my awareness of what's happening in the field of education. So much has changed since I studied for my bachelor's degree. This program has helped me understand current best practices and encouraged me to put them into action in my classroom.
- "It's also been beneficial in helping me more naturally communicate with parents and church members in regard to educating young children.
- "And I love that I get to communicate to my students that I am a learner just like them! I am working on improving what I do each day."

In some ways, Mrs. Zahrt will always be the same teacher—one who teaches not only literacy, but love; not only computers, but kindness. In other ways, however, she's a teacher who's always changing, always growing.

"While it may be difficult at times to do something new and stretch yourself a bit more, knowing that you are making changes that positively impact the education of your students is so rewarding," she says. "There is such satisfaction in working toward a worthy goal and meeting it, especially one that you believe will make a positive difference in your mission field! I'm excited to see how God will use my strengths to serve him and his church in the future."

Adapted from the MLC e-newsletter Master's Program News, November 2016



MLC's online blog presents provocative issues in education. Read. Be inspired. Add to the discussion. Here's a sample of recent blogs. Read the full articles and the discussions that ensue at blogs.mlc-wels.edu.

Lutheran Principals Can Strengthen Schools by Listening by Eric Ziel

The Principal's Critical Role with New School Families by Allen Labitzky

Words Printed on a . . . Screen? by Andrea Van Sice

Do You Value Physical Education? by Professor Dan Gawrisch

Improving Instructional Coaching and Evaluation by Seth Fitzsimmons

Assisting Disruptive Students in Our Classrooms by Dr. Tracey Enser

The Benefits of Digital Badges by Angela Hanson





Bryan Schwarz NWC 1987 Mt Prospect IL



Debra WhitcombDMLC 1977
New Ulm MN



Myrl Wagenknecht NWC 1962 Glendale AZ



Cheryl A Raugutt DMLC 1972 Mobridge SD



SEMESTER ABROAD PROGRAM

Enhances Ministry Training



Today's MLC students are on the move. They volunteer for Daylight USA ministry trips all over the country. They participate in immersion programs in China or Argentina. They teach for a year in Russia, Peru, Southeast Asia, or the Caribbean.

Each journey integrates academic and experiential learning. Each enlarges students' perspectives and enhances their preparation for ministry, which is—after all—a global endeavor.

Now MLC offers another educational opportunity: a semester abroad program.

Students enroll for a semester at a university outside the United States and take courses that transfer back to MLC. Afterward, they'll graduate and be available for assignment—or matriculation at the seminary—with the rest of their class.

"On-time graduation is one of our goals," says Director of International Services **Thomas Hunter** *DMLC* '75. "So we encourage students who are interested in studying abroad to begin planning for it already their first year here."

Juniors Crystal Carmichael and Erin Feddersen, who are studying in Ireland this semester, as well as Collin Wenzel, who will study in Germany next semester, began preparing for their semester abroad soon after they entered college.

These students will tell you it takes a fair amount of initiative and courage to embark on an entire semester away from everything they know. Collin, for instance, admits that he's never even flown. But the blessings are worth it.

"There are so many benefits to studying abroad," says International Coordinator Megan Kassuelke, who recently visited Carmichael and Feddersen in Limerick (see photo on page 15). "Gaining confidence and maturity, broadening your knowledge of other countries and your respect for other cultures, increasing your interpersonal communication skills, and improving your language proficiency."

Professor Hunter adds to the list: "Increasing problem solving and critical thinking skills, and recognizing your own cultural values and biases. Any experience like this—where you're thrown into a completely different environment—promotes personal, professional, and spiritual growth.

"Spiritually," he continues, "the students find that they have to get into their Bibles on their own, because there may not be a WELS church nearby. They study the Word alone and with one another. They learn to explain and defend their faith to others, both Christians and non-Christians."

Semester abroad experiences may be new on our campus, but they dovetail smoothly with MLC's mission: "With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the college desires to strengthen the student in a consecrated spirit of love for God and his Word; to educate the student for faithful, capable, intelligent *citizenship in today's world*; to assist the student in acquiring the *knowledge*, *attitudes*, *and skills needed for service in the church* and for lifelong learning; and to encourage the student in developing and demonstrating a heart for service in the church, community, and world.



Senior **Leah Nass** (*St. Paul-Howards Grove WI*, *pictured*) took a three-week course in London last year. She perhaps says it best: "Study abroad offers you more than a few credits

toward graduation. It offers you the experience of a lifetime: an opportunity to experience life from another culture's point of view, to meet new people and make new friends, to see sites you

previously only saw in pictures, and most importantly, to confidently witness your faith to others, both in word and deed."





Janet Guenther DMLC 1967 Morton Grove IL



Joel Fredrich NWC 1977 Mequon WI



Ruth Albrecht DMLC 1962 La Crosse WI



Edward Ungemach III NWC 1987 Kenosha WI



IRELAND: FALL 2016

Crystal Carmichael
(Living Hope-Shakopee MN)
and Erin Feddersen (Shepherd of the
Bay-Lusby MD) are spending this semester
at the University of Limerick.

Both women are double majoring in elementary ed and secondary PE at MLC. The credits they're gaining in Limerick—in math, physics, PE, health, and curriculum and instruction—will transfer back.

They have a blog/vlog at blogs.mlc-wels.edu/ study-abroad/2016. Their posts are both silly and serious. Here are a few excerpts:

Irish people are very passionate and proud about their sports and music. Last week during orientation, an Irish musical group called Celtic Steps came and performed for all the international students. And Erin and I attended a Gaelic Sport session, where we learned how to play hurling and Gaelic football.

Professors, instructors, and teachers go by their first names. It's a little weird writing emails to them because you feel like you're being improper, but it's just the way they do things over here! The teachers are very laid back, wearing jeans and polos to class. Classes don't start before nine because they

believe that anything before that is far too early.

Ireland is filled with beauty, and we've only explored a little part of it. Ireland is very green. Ireland has a lot of fun castles to climb. Ireland has got some great views. I feel like I breathe better in Ireland. Do they have more oxygen here since it is greener?

The weather is unpredictable. The morning will start out windy and cool, in the afternoon it will downpour, and then the evening will be clear and sunny. The people here say you can get all four seasons in one day. I believe it! Erin and I both have raincoats and are prepared!

I know full well that not everything will go smoothly while I'm abroad. I'll face trials of many kinds. It will be an adjustment to not have classmates who share the same faith and not have a chapel to go to every day.

What calms my fears the most is the knowledge that no matter where I go, the Lord will never leave me. The Lord will always provide for me. I rejoice with the opportunities he has given me, and I cannot wait to share his name and what he has done with people all over the world!

GERMANY: SPRING 2017





Collin Wenzel (Mount Olive-Appleton WI) will spend second semester of his junior year studying at Freie

Universität in Berlin.

He'll take 12 credits in German language, history, and culture—all of which will transfer back to his preseminary program at MLC. To accommodate this semester abroad, he took his first required year of Hebrew as a sophomore instead of a junior. He'll finish his second when he returns.

Collin is especially looking forward to improving his language skills and visiting the Luther sites—which in 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, will be especially meaningful.

"I pray this will enhance my ministry training by teaching me how to connect with people of a different background and culture," he says.

Three more preseminary students are planning on a semester in Berlin in the 2017-18 school year.





Amber L Stritt MLC 2007 York PA



Norman J Barenz NWC 1947 San Fernando CA



Christine M Wempner DMLC 1992 Tipp City OH



Ronald Muetzel NWC 1967 New Ulm MN

Thanks to Sarah Zahrt '99 for the hashtags. More pictures at mlc-wels.edu/go/homecoming16.



HCMECCMI



The alumni photo booth was a hot spot during the weekend. #onceandfutureknights



MLC Alumni Association Board meets to discuss more ways to support MLC. #uknighted



The weekend culminates in worship at Chapel of the Christ. #onethingneedful





COMUNICANDO

Spanish Immersion Equips for Ministry

Professor Paul Bases took 37 participants on this summer's Spanish immersion experience to Argentina.

The annual five-week, six-credit immersion course includes homestay programs, seven hours of daily language instruction, guided excursions, tango classes, and a weekend gaucho ranch excursion.

Most notably, students are required to take a Spanish-only pledge, speaking nothing but Spanish for the entire five weeks.

Since 1995, "Profe" Bases has taken 470 participants on immersion trips to Spanish-speaking South American countries. Any MLC student may sign up for these courses, no matter what their level of fluency. Students from Bethany Lutheran College (Mankato MN) and Wisconsin Lutheran College (Milwaukee) also sign up for the courses, as do current teachers and pastors.

This year, for instance, Pastor Phil Hunter MLC '11, WLS '15 and his wife, Andrea (Steinbrenner) Hunter '10, participated. Pastor Hunter led worship services—in Spanish, of course.

"It's open to any and all who wish to study Spanish in an intensive high-quality program," Bases says. "It's a great way for both current students and called workers to work on their language proficiency skills."

For those who want additional experiences after their first immersion course. Professor Bases also offers satellite immersion programs in Guatemala, Ecuador, and Chile.

Of the 550 education majors on the MLC campus, 27 are Spanish majors. Another seven students carry a Spanish minor. And preseminary students see the value of the language as well, with 30% (52 out of 172) taking Spanish courses to fulfill their nonbiblical language requirement.

Learning a foreign language is not merely an avenue to greater cultural awareness. It also opens doors for the gospel. With about 400 million native speakers, Spanish is the second-most widely spoken language in the world, making mastery of this Romance language a ministry training asset. One Spanish course— Communicating Christ—is focused exclusively on sharing the gospel.

(The most widely spoken language in the world, with almost a billion native speakers, is Mandarin Chinese, which is also offered at MLC.)

"Those students who graduate from MLC with Spanish language proficiency are well-prepared to share the gospel with millions of souls, both here in the States and abroad," Bases says. "What a blessing to share the love of Jesus with people in their own language."











CRISTO

Breaking Down Barriers

By Phil Hunter MLC '11, WLS '15

As a senior at MLC, I took Elementary Spanish I and II and audited Communicating Christ. During my studies at the seminary, I went to Mexico twice for two weeks through the SPICE (Spanish Immersion Cultural Education) program, and each of those mini-immersions gave my Spanish abilities a huge boost. By then I was able to help a local congregation, Trinity-Waukesha WI, with its budding Spanish outreach. In May 2015 I was assigned to Bethel-Menasha WI and immediately began using Spanish on a daily basis.

By God's grace, I was able to preach, counsel, baptize, and teach Bible Information Class in Spanish, and enjoy meals and grow new friendships in countless Spanish-speaking homes—but just barely! While all the members and visitors, and my associate pastor, were very gracious, I still frequently found myself smiling and listening, completely unsure of what I was hearing. Even basic communication was often a struggle, due to my lack of vocabulary, structures, and forms.

My associate pastor, **Sam Degner** *MLC '01*, *WLS '05*, recommended an immersion program, particularly through MLC. With the blessing and financial support of WELS Home Missions, our Northern Wisconsin District Mission Board, and my congregation, my wife, Andrea, and I embarked on an eight-week adventure in Argentina.

We studied at an excellent language academy in small classes with about 30 MLC students, a few Bethany and WLC students, and a couple area Lutheran high school teachers. From mid-May through mid-July, we learned new grammar and vocabulary. More important, we grew in our comfort and fluency with the Spanish language, due in large part to our pledge to speak only Spanish. Conversations, tests, movies, museums, city tours, and the Argentine staples of beef, ice cream, and pizza all contributed to a fun learning environment that strengthened our abilities exponentially.



Some of my favorite moments were spent in worship. I was privileged to create weekly worship services for the group, which introduced the students to the most common Spanish liturgies in use around WELS. The music was accompanied on guitar by MLC junior **Zach Satorius** (*Grace-Falls Church VA*), and nearly all the preseminary students read Scripture lessons. Proclaiming God's law and gospel, confessing our sins and being absolved, singing and praying—and doing it all in Spanish in a foreign country with so many students training for ministry—made for an unforgettable memory.

The time came to return to our home and ministry in Menasha. There are still times I can only smile, not quite certain about a word or expression, but nowhere near as often as last year. Several members and frequent guests have noticed that my Spanish has improved, and I feel more at ease knowing I won't tie myself up in grammatical knots.

But it's not just about feeling better. The goal is to sound a clear call (1 Corinthians 14:8). The message we have is important. Each word of God's Word is important. His messengers strive to be clear and to break down language and cultural barriers.

MLC's Spanish immersion program is designed to help future and current called workers do just that, and take it from me—it works!

Pastor Hunter serves Bethel-Menasha WI and is a member of the MLC Alumni Association Board. He is married to **Andrea** (nee Steinbrenner) Hunter '10, who works for WELS Multi-Language Publications and Asia Lutheran Seminary.

Martin Luther: Radical Reformer

A Reformation Anniversary Series

by MLC Professor Emeritus **Arnold Koelpin** WLS '58

A Radical Reformer Speaks Out on . . .

Understanding Life
The place of religion in life
Fall 2016

Birds, Dogs, and Babies The place of nature in life Spring 2017

Education

The place of religion in our curriculum

Summer 2017

The Fine Art of Music

The place of liberal arts in our joy of life Fall 2017

RADICAL.

From the Latin *radix*, meaning "root." Like a radish, growing under the surface, it relates to the fundamental origin from which something grows.

A Radical Reformer Speaks Out on Understanding Life

What made the reformer Martin Luther tick? That question is undoubtedly on the minds of all who pause to reflect on his life and work 500 years later. Answers often mirror respondents' historical reflections, much like a person who looks curiously into the depths of a well sees only their own reflection.

A popular tract distributed in the United States makes this assessment of the man:

Psychologically, he was a strange character, almost a Jekyll and Hyde by turns. In religious moments his imagination poured itself out in poetry and hymns, but these, and many other beautiful passages that can be gathered from the writings of Luther, were merely the remnants of his Catholic inheritance. In sensual moments he wallowed in his passions. . . . In belligerent moments he was stubborn to a degree and flayed his opponents with violent streams of abuse. Luther's greatness was neither a truly human greatness nor a truly Christian greatness. It was merely . . . an animal greatness—a greatness of force, energy, and vehemence of character.

Is this multisided psychological appraisal the way we are to understand this so-called German Hercules who lashed out against pope and fanatic, Jew and peasant alike? How do we explain a man who at the same time tenderly admonishes us, "You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself"?

Luther himself provides a clue to what makes him tick. It can be found at his Wittenberg home beneath the canopy stones in the portal to the Augustinian monastery. There carved in stone is the face of Martin Luther surrounded by the motto he chose to be set in stone. It reads: IN SILENTIO ET SPE ERIT FORTITUDO VESTRA — "In quietness and hope is your strength."

A meaningless motto unfit for a fighter in the church militant? By no means! This Old Testament scholar carefully chose words from the prophet Isaiah, whose situation in life matched his own. Both were caught in the midst of a struggle on two fronts: Isaiah between the superpowers of Assyria and Egypt, Luther between the papacy and the fanatics. Both sought strength, not in the choice of sides, but in the quietness of faith. The clue to understanding the Reformer, as his watchword indicates, is simply to be found in waiting for the Lord to act by listening to God's Word and trusting his ways.

"With closed eyes," Luther wrote, "[Abraham] hid himself in the darkness of faith, and there he found eternal light." The good Doctor followed the same course.

Did he really? How then does Luther, ebullient by nature, presume to act in quietness and reliance on God's Word? Others made



Peter C Trapp MLC 2007 Madison WI



Daniel J Slaughter MLC 2012 Mesa AZ



Gregg Birkholz DMLC 1987 <u>New Ulm</u> MN



Bonnie L DuddeckDMLC 1972
Watertown WI

similar claims. The spiritualists of his day also found strength in quietness and likewise cited Scripture as their guide. "Scripture speaks of a tranquility that is a means of coming to God," explained Hans Denck, a free spirit from Nuremberg. He then defined this means as "Christ himself, not to be regarded physically, but rather spiritually." Luther regarded him as a fanatic.

Why? Why did Luther not make common cause with such free spirits? What moved him to call them fanatics and enthusiasts? How did the two really differ? What is religious enthusiasm anyway? These questions drive us to the core of the battle with religious extremists. To understand, we must take Luther in

golden mean, a third option between extremes, but something entirely different. It was *the middle way of faith* in the "Holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God."

"I am plagued by both sides," Luther once complained, "for the fanatics . . . are more hostile to me than the Pope. And the Pope is more hostile to me than they are. On both sides, all are enemies of the Gospel." The lines were drawn.

For starters, we need to follow Luther's insights on the *importance* of understanding life. From today's perspective we need only recall that this church reform was basically a major *educational* movement with an international impact. It

The Freedom of a Christian

"A Christian lives not in himself, but in Christ and in his neighbor. Otherwise he is not a Christian. He lives in Christ through faith, in his neighbor through love. By faith he is caught beyond himself into God. By love he descends beneath himself into his neighbor. Yet he always remains in God and in his love."

- Martin Luther

context and there learn to appreciate more fully the truth of the saying: "What do they know of Luther who only Luther know?"

Insights into this historical encounter can do more than help us identify what made Luther tick. They can especially alert us to the *radical* nature of Luther's own theology. "We must not think of the Reformation as though Martin Luther were the norm and all else deviation from the Lutheran party line," scolds the English historian E. Gordon Rupp, and then explains:

It is really Luther who is the great surprise! The medievalist, familiar enough with anticlericalism, mysticism, and moralism, finds nothing very surprising in *[other reformers]*. But Luther is disconcerting, with his heights and depths of exploration of the biblical world, his poised and balanced middle way between Popery and Puritanism, a more genuine *Via Media* than the Anglican muddle of principle and expediency. I say, he is the surprise. He gave the whole Reformation movement a new thrust and direction. But for him, Puritanism would have swallowed up Protestantism, and the whole matter of the Reformation might have dissolved in a new legalism in religion, and in sectarian strife.

In an inimitable way, Rupp latches on to the essence of Luther's church reform: Luther sought the middle way that was not the

recovered the gospel of God's glory and grace as central to Christian faith and life. Martin Luther put people in contact with our life before God as revealed in the historic Christian Scriptures.

Yet, as odd as it seems, to understand how faith interacts with daily life is a *most difficult* task. Worldwide, people generally

agree that understanding life is part of learning. But we are easily deceived. Where surface learning rules, our understanding is undermined by religion. Cunningly, people turn religion into religiosity and the work of God's Spirit into mere spirituality. In Lectures on Psalm 117, Luther explains: On earth "I must grant the devil his hour of godliness, and ascribe devilhood to our God. But this is not the whole story. The last word is his [God's]: 'His faithfulness and truth endure forever."





Scott Carmichael NWC 1982 Nodine MN



Katie L Myers MLC 2007 Watertown SD



Jeffrey Verbeke NWC 1992 Capac MI



John Eaton DMLC 1962 Tucson AZ

Reunions

We are always excited to have alumni back on campus and were blessed to have a record number of reunions here in 2016.

Some groups gathered to celebrate their traditional 25-, 40-, and 50-year commencement anniversaries. Others came to celebrate and reminisce about theatrical or sports successes.

Whatever the reason, we encourage you to follow their lead, get your group together, and come to campus in 2017. The alumni relations office is eager to help you coordinate your event. Contact Steve Balza in the alumni office (alumni@mlc-wels.edu or 507.217.1731) and start planning today.



DMLC 1981 Football Team



MLA Class of 1970

EmbARK on a Journey with the 2017 Alumni Tour

All WELS members are invited to join us for an affordable, enjoyable, educational, and remARKable tour to the Bluegrass State of Kentucky. In addition to seeing spectacular sites, MLC Alumni Tours offer daily worship opportunities and fellowship with like-minded believers.

This year's highlights will include the Ark Encounter, the Creation Museum, Mammoth Cave National Park, Cumberland Falls, a Lexington area horse farm tour, and Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.

The guided motor coach tour departs from New Ulm (with pickup locations en route to Milwaukee) on Friday, June 16, and returns to New Ulm on Sunday, June 25 (from \$1100).

A Saturday to Saturday option (June 17-24) starting and ending in Milwaukee is also available (from \$900).

Contact tour director Steve Balza in the alumni office (alumni@mlc-wels.edu or 507.217.1731) or check out the tour website (mlcalumni.wixsite.com/tours) for more details. Registration will begin in December and is expected to sell out quickly.





reached new heights as they marveled at God's grandeur in Colorado.



DMLC 1992 Fairfax MN



KDee J West Salem WI



Scheuerlein NWC 1962 Saginaw MI



Kristine **DMLC 1987** Kenosha WI



Meet the Presidents

Dr. Martin Luther College President Carl L. Schweppe

Carl L. Schweppe (1892-1969) holds the singular distinction of being the first homegrown president of Dr. Martin Luther College. Born south of New Ulm and baptized by the college's first president, Pastor C. J. Albrecht, Carl went through the ranks to become the college's sixth full-time president, a position he held for 30 years (1936-1966).

His Christian education began in St. James, Minnesota, continued in DMLC's high school department, transitioned to Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin, and culminated at WELS' Seminary in Wauwatosa.

In 1915, Carl was called to serve his college alma mater in Watertown as the synod's first tutor and dorm supervisor. For two years he honed his love of English literature and talent for baseball, passions he shared with Northwestern's athletic director and later president, Erwin E. Kowalke. The friendship served the church body well. When the two men administered the two synodical colleges, they collaborated by constant personal correspondence, with full trust and without additional bureaucracies.

For three years Schweppe gained experience in parish ministry as pastor in Bowdle, South Dakota. While there, he married Flora Oetting, a hometown girl from St. James, and the first of the couple's three children was born. But Dr. Martin Luther College needed an English professor. So in 1920 the new professor began teaching English literature and indulging his interest in Shakespeare.

The classroom was a fit, and education suited his demeanor. Everyone remembers this tall stately man who got attention by his commanding voice and oratorical eloquence. There was substance; there was conviction. Students loved "Schwap," as he was affectionately known, for his dignified yet warm and humorous ways. His after-Christmas concert talks became legendary. The students rolled with laughter at his puns and satire on Bach's contrapuntal fugues.

Through sound judgment he made fans also in the community. The *New Ulm Journal* marked Schweppe as *New Ulm's Foremost Educator*. He served on the police commission and a bank board. His leadership helped the college weather the storms of the Depression and vicissitudes of World War II as a member of the municipal draft board. He oversaw major adjustments to post-war educational changes.

Schweppe liked to quote Hamlet's advice: "To thine own self be true; thou canst not then be false to any man." But his last commencement address best summarizes his life's work in the Lord's kingdom: "Walk in the Truth!"

Our gratitude to Professor Emeritus Arnold Koelpin for writing this biography and to Professor Emeritus Arthur Schulz for his research on the DMLC presidents.



Northwestern College

1865-1869 Adam Martin 1869-1870 Lewis O. Thompson 1871-1919 Dr. August F. Ernst 1919-1959 Erwin E. Kowalke 1959-1987 Carleton Toppe 1987-1993 Robert J. Voss 1993-1995 John Braun



Dr. Martin Luther College

1884-1885 Christian J. Albrecht 1885-1893 Otto Hoyer 1893-1908 John Schaller 1908-1918 Adolph Ackermann 1918-1920 Johannes P. Meyer 1920-1935 Edmund Bliefernicht

1936-1966 Carl L. Schweppe

1966-1980 Conrad Frey 1980-1993 Lloyd O. Huebner 1993-1995 John Lawrenz



Martin Luther College

1994-2007 Theodore Olsen 2007-present Mark Zarling



Samuel F
Panning
MLC 2012
Denton TX



Jane Willitz DMLC 1987 Spring Valley WI



Gary Kraklow NWC 1977 Cudahy WI



Susan Ellenberger DMLC 1967 Norfolk NE

Winnebago Wonder Women

By Clarice Fastenau DMLC '60 and Paul Fritze DMLC '61, MLC Archives Team members

Wonder women—that's what they were! With a minimum amount of instruction, a maximum amount of courage and determination, and the Lord's help, these women became very effective teachers in WELS elementary schools in a time of great need.

The Winnebago Teachers Course was developed because of the great teacher shortage in the late 1950s. After graduation from high school, the students attended a six-week summer session at Dr. Martin Luther College, earning 12 credits in religion and music. That was followed by a year at Winnebago Lutheran Academy (WLA, *pictured*) in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where they earned 18 credits each semester in basic college subjects. Another summer session at DMLC earned 12 more credits in religion, education, and music, for a total of 60 credits.

The women had one week of student teaching, which they often arranged themselves—and paid for themselves. "I asked for my home congregation of St. Lucas-Milwaukee, so I could stay at

home," said Jorunn (Salverson) Kastens. "It was arranged, and St. Lucas was happy to help me."

Completion of the Winnebago
Teachers Course qualified these women to receive a call to teach in a
WELS elementary school.

Winnebago Lutheran Academy in 1961

The DMLC Board of Control called one full-time professor, Arthur Koester, to live in Fond du Lac and head up the program. A part-time instructor taught piano and organ: first, Professor Herbert Jaster and later, Professor Bruce Backer and others. College courses were taught by Professor Koester and by WLA teachers Traugott Zuberbier, Winfred Schaller, James Pelzl,



By Ruth Koelpin and Clarice Fastenau DMLC '61

125 Years Ago

1891 – The 1891 school year began with 81 students: 11 Seminary (pastor prep) students, 3 Normal (teacher prep) students, 3 Normal (teacher prep) students, 31 Gymnasium (college prep) students, and 36 Commercial (local business) students. Seven professors made up the faculty. Tuition was \$12 for the first term and \$10 for the second and third. Room and board was \$80 for the year, but students needed to provide their own furniture, bedding, fuel, and light. (DMLC Catalog 1891-1892)

100 Years Ago

1916 – The 1916 basketball team was DMLC's eleventh, the first one having hit the court in 1906. They had the advantage of



practicing in the Summit basement gymnasium, which, unlike the old Turnhalle, was heated. That fact didn't help them, however, in their match-up with New Ulm High School, where they lost 26-24. Scoring for the college were Koenig (11), Westerkamp (9), Bradtke (2), and Kolander (2). (125 Years – 125 Stories)

Hans Bierwagen, and Walter Hoepner. The ladies sang in the Academy Choir directed by Principal Zuberbier and took part in the choir concerts.

Jorunn Kastens remembers: "A short distance from the school on the corner of Merrill and Park was a huge, beautiful house. That house served as our dorm." The house had belonged to the Nast Family. Mr. and Mrs. Nast had died, but their daughter, Doris, who taught at St. Peter-Fond du Lac, was the housemother.

The women lived in very crowded conditions at the Nast house, with four or five to a bedroom and many bunk beds in an enclosed porch and garage. Marie (Stindt) Voecks remembered, "My room was with five other girls in the converted garage. It got really cold in the winter."

The women walked to the Academy for their classes and the noon meal in the cafeteria. Breakfasts were on their own in their dorm, and they took turns preparing the evening meals. Miss Nast purchased the groceries. Many of the girls had part-time jobs between their last class and the evening meal.

One graduate, Naomi (Kuske) Mahnke, reported that her first call was to start a new school, Martin Luther, in Neenah, Wisconsin. She taught grades 5-8 with 42 students. She said, "With lots of prayers and help from the lower grade teacher, I enjoyed three years there."

The program ended in 1961. About 20 women had been enrolled each year. Many continued their education and later received Bachelor of Science in Education degrees from DMLC or other colleges.

At a time when WELS schools were overflowing with the children of the post-war baby boom, women like Miss Salverson, Miss Stindt, and Miss Kuske met the need, capably serving their Lord and their church.



Calla Winnehago Teachers

The first graduating class of the Winnebago Teachers Course met for a 50th reunion several years ago: (front) Gladys Stoll Brueske, Mary Hill Bittorf Cuff, Lois Petrus Kraus; (back) Jean Radtke Morrow, Gladys Klueger Heup, Jean Page Ziegler, Porothy Ackerman Anderegg, Louise Glanzer Porth, Marie Gieseke Leinberger

75 Years Ago

1941 – The season ticket for the five lyceum programs was 60 cents. The most popular sports for the men were touch football, horseshoe, and ping pong. (DMLC Messenger, September 1941)

50 Years Ago

1966 – Professor Harry Palmbach died November 9, 1966, at the age of 75. He came to DMLC in 1917, and for 49 years he taught science and math courses and served as coach and athletic director.



25 Years Ago

1991 – Coached by Professor Paul Boehlke and led by captain Kurt Gosdeck, the '91-'92 cross country team won the NSCC and UMAC, and the men competed at Nationals, taking home three medals. To finish the season, the van broke down and the team was stranded in Beloit, Wisconsin. They

were treated to WELS hospitality and received cookies for the ride home. (1992 Excelsior)



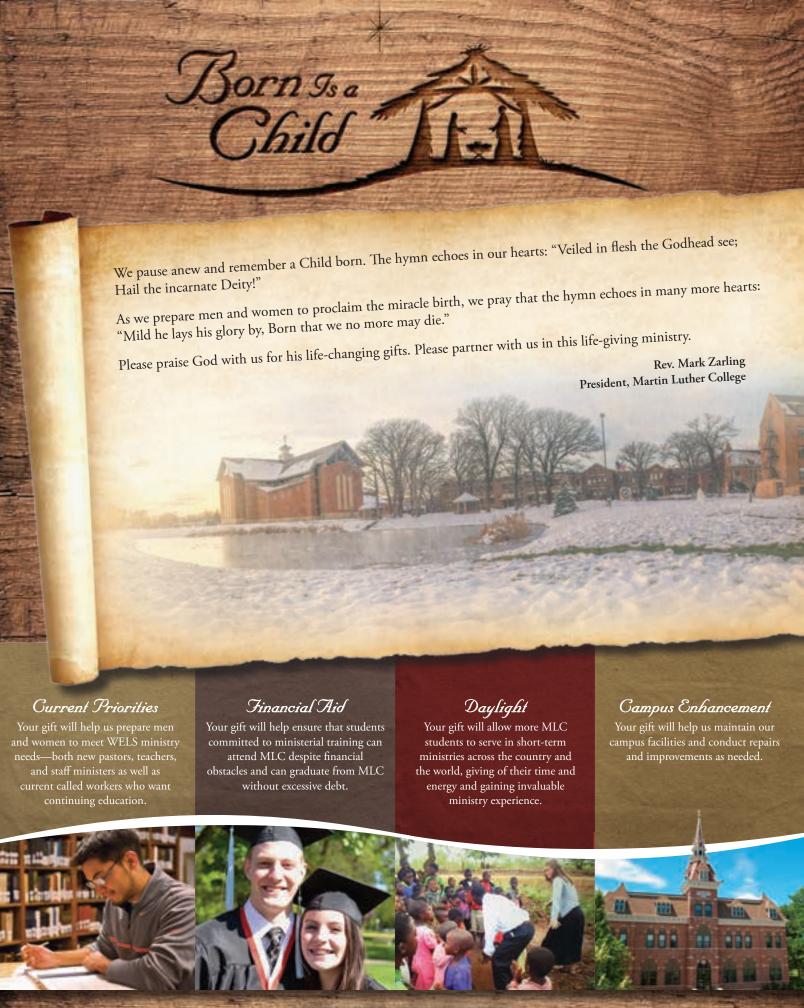
10 Years Ago

2006 – Jeremiah Drews (pictured) and other students assisted with clean-up in Nicollet, Minnesota, after an August 24, 2006, tornado.



5 Years Ago

2011 – MLC hosted the WELS National Choral Festival November 11-13. Almost 500 singers and their directors from 22 Lutheran high schools took part.



The Most Precious Legacy of All

By Kate Tohal, Resource Development Counselor

When a loved one dies, the family and friends experience many emotions: grief, regret, anxiety, and stress of all kinds. They need words of peace and strength—words from the Savior.

You can bring comfort to your family after you die by including a Christian preamble in your will. When they hear that you know you are in heaven, it can go a long way in easing their sorrow and serve as a testimony to Christ's saving grace. You can mention your desire to have them in heaven with you one day as well. Your Christian preamble is something they'll never forget!

Many people not only have this Christian preamble read before the will is read, some even use it in their obituary.

The greatest legacy of your estate won't be *things*, it'll be the confidence and comfort of Jesus' gift of faith and salvation.

As you make your will, consider a Christian preamble in which you express your faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. What comfort and assurance you can offer your family!

Christian preamble example #1

I, _______, do hereby testify that I am a Christian. I have placed all my hope of life hereafter in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. His death and resurrection have given my life meaning and made my death a peaceful passage to eternal life in heaven. I want my family and friends to know that for me to live was Christ, and to die is gain.

Christian preamble example #2

I, ______, want all who read this to know that there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that upon death I will enter heaven, not by my own worthiness, but only through my Lord Jesus' death on the cross. I commend my loved ones into the hands of the Lord and encourage them to place their faith and trust in him alone for their salvation.

These preambles are from a workbook called *Estate Planning for the Christian Steward: Doing the Will of God from Your Heart.* To receive this workbook, please contact me at tohalkj@mlc-wels.edu or 507.217.7982. I can also provide you with other helpful estate-planning tips.



Blessing Upon Blessing:

THE CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER GRANT PROGRAM

The success of MLC's new Congregational Partner Grant Program surpassed all expectations.

The God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine allowed for 54% of the 2016-2017 incoming first-year students (106) to receive their congregation's grant (\$87,000) and MLC's dollar-for-dollar match, for a total of \$176,000.

The governing board has approved expansion of the program to incoming first-year and sophomore students for 2017-2018. Deadline: June 1, 2017.

Congregations that wish to award a grant to one of their members entering MLC next school year as an incoming first-year or sophomore student may submit their application at mlc-wels.edu/go/CPGF.

Congregations that do not have any members at MLC can still contribute to the scholarship program. Go to mlc-wels.edu/go/CPGF.



The Shepherd Society

Founded in 2008, the Shepherd Society is comprised of called workers who have been recognized for making a difference in people's lives through their ministries. The called workers nominated for the Shepherd Society receive a commemorative plaque with a personal Certificate of Appreciation from the MLC president.

Philip Adickes Bruce Backer Richard & Lois Balge Siegbert Becker **Dustin Bergene** Forrest & Sue Bivens Steven D. Bode Keith Bowe Paul Bowe John & Irene Brug Dan & Kathy Bruss Ronald Brutlag Norman Burger, Jr. Steve Carlovsky Leroy & Betty Dobberstein Ann Dorn Paul Eckert Don & Clarice Fastenau **Arthur Frenz**

Don & Clarice Fastenar Arthur Frenz Verlyn Fuhrmann Richard Gibson David Gosdeck Barbara Green Gene Gronholz Jimmy Groth

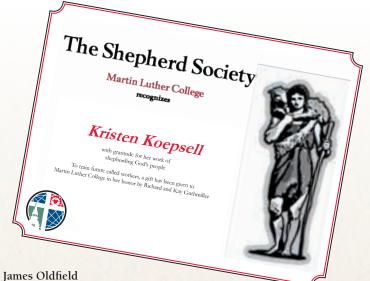
Cindy & Matthew Grow Robert Guenther Robert & Julie Averbeck

Dean Gunn

Beverlee Haar
Susan Haar
Jason Hacker
Harold Hagedorn
Jon & Linda Hahm
Don & Harriet Hartwig
Michael Hein
Richard Hennig
Greg Hermanson
John Isch
Marilyn Jonas
Gerhard Kaniess
Dennis Kempf
Philip Koelpin
Kristen Koepsell

David Kolander
Jonathan Kolander
Brett Krause
Jennifer Krause
David Kuehl
Timothy Kujath
Lyle Lange
Mark Lenz
Barb Leopold
Cheryl Loomis
Phil Leyrer
Steve Loehr
Daniel Malchow

Carla Melendy



Theodore Olsen Armin & Virginia Panning Paul Patterson Ronald Pape Peggy Pekrul Jackson Petrie Herb & Char Prahl Esther & Virgil Raasch Rob Raasch Darvin Raddatz James Rath Wendy Ristow Karen Rodewald Dave & Sande Sauer Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Schauer Hillmer John Schaible Doug Scherschel **John Schmidt** Ron & Roseann Schultz **Edmund Schulz** Mark M. Schulz

Richard Schwerin

Joel & Carly Seifert

Martin Sponholz John & Carrie Steinbrenner William Steinbrenner **Burton Stensberg** Doug Stindt Steve Strieter Joan Tjernagel Alan Treder **Earle Treptow** Paul & Donna Tullberg David & Janice Valleskey Bob & Bonnie Wasser Kathy Walz Cindy Whaley Chad White Kenneth White Erin E. Williams **Judith Winsky** Ronald Winter Harold Yotter Mark Zarling

David Zietlow

Anyone may nominate a pastor, teacher, or staff minister for the Shepherd Society by filling out a form (*see below*) and sending it to Martin Luther College along with a gift of gratitude. It's a great way to honor a special person, to support the training of future called workers at MLC, and to glorify the Good Shepherd!

Address		City	State	Zip
Phone	Ema	ail (opt)		
My gift of gratitude to MLC: \$	\$100 \$150	\$200 \$250 \$	=	
I'm giving this gift in honor of		ame of WELS pastor, teach		
Congregation and/or school where	called worker serve	s/served:		
My Words of Gratitude: "I'm gratef	ıl to [called worke	e's name]		
because				



FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

New Faculty



Tarah Beduze '16 Lead Teacher at MLC Early Childhood **Learning Center**

Tarah (née Steinbrenner) previously taught grades 1-2 at Peridot/Our Savior's-Peridot AZ for six months. She is married to Jarred Beduze '17.



Julius Buelow '12 Instructor of Hebrew

Julius studied for one year at Lutherisches Theologisches Seminar in Leipzig, Germany, following his graduation from MLC. He has completed two years of study at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and his vicar year at Immanuel-Greenville WI. Julius is married

to Nicole Rosenbaum '11. He is teaching Hebrew in place of Professor Thomas Nass, who is on sabbatical.



Craig Hirschmann DMLC '84 **Professor of Music**

Craig previously served at St. Paul-Appleton WI and St. John-Milwaukee (68th Street), where he was teacher and music coordinator and, later, staff minister of worship and music. He also served as an adjunct instructor at Wisconsin Lutheran College and Concordia

University Wisconsin (CUW). He has an MS in church music from CUW. Craig and his wife, Diane (née Fickau), have three children: Lisa, Sara, and Laurel, who's a first-year student at MLC.



Greg Holzhueter '10 Professor of Physical Education, Coach

Greg previously worked at Bethany Lutheran College, where he served in varying capacities for five years: as resident manager, assistant men's basketball coach, head men's basketball coach, and academic resource center coordinator. Greg has his MS in counseling

and student personnel from Minnesota State University Mankato. He is married to Emma (née Orth).



Elizabeth Klugherz '07 Director of MLC Early Childhood Learning Center

Elizabeth has a BS in elementary education from Bemidji State University, and WELS synod certification and Minnesota state licensure for early childhood education through MLC. She previously served at

Trinity-Nicollet MN as the kindergarten teacher and preschool director/lead teacher, and at MLC's Early Childhood Learning Center as the lead toddler teacher. She is currently working on her master's degree in family education through the University of Minnesota. She and her husband, Timothy, have four children: Adam, Maggie, Brianna, and Noah.



Erin Meissner Instructor of Music

Erin has an AA degree from Bethany Lutheran College, a Bachelor of Music Education from Augsburg College, and a Master of Music in conducting from State University of New York, Fredonia. She is teaching music courses and directing the Wind Symphony in place

of Professor Miles Wurster, who is on sabbatical. She and her husband, Thomas Meissner WLS '04, have three children: Enna, Madeleine, and Isaac.



David Scharf WLS '05 Professor of Theology

Dave previously served at Immanuel-Greenville WI for 11 years. He's also served as evangelism coordinator of the Northern Wisconsin District and chair of the Commission on Congregational Counseling. He and his wife, Beth (née Koelpin) '00,

have six children, ages 3-14: Anastasia, Zoe, Isaiah, Dahlia, Evangeline, and Nika.



Nathan Wordell WLS '16

Nate served St. Paul-Rapid City SD for his vicar year. He has also served part-time in Los Angeles, Alexandria LA, Kenosha WI, and at Wisconsin Lutheran College.



FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Adjunct Professor Paul Boehlke DMLC '61 developed a concept map that's been peer reviewed and accepted for publication on the Life Science Teaching Resource Community website. His diagram depicting factors that influence muscle action can now be accessed as a teaching tool by other biologists and teachers.



Professor Benjamin Clemons '03 presented "Teaching in Transition" at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference in October. He is also serving on the Board for World Missions East Asia Administrative Council and the Wisconsin Lutheran High School Seat Expansion Task Force (SETaF).

Professor James Danell WLS '90 presented "Luther and the Jews" at Shoreland LHS's "Luther Days" on September 17.

Professor Joel Fredrich WLS '82 and Professor Emeritus **Daniel Deutschlander** WLS '68 led Bible studies of 1 and 2 Corinthians and St. Mark's Gospel, respectively, as a Seminary Summer Quarter course for Nebraska District pastors at Gethsemane-Omaha in July. Fredrich led a study of 1 and 2 Corinthians also for pastors of the Mankato and Minnesota River Valley Conferences in Stillwater in September.

Professor Daniel Gawrisch '08 presented "Organizational Strategies in PE" at the WELS PE Conference in La Crosse WI in September. He presented the same sectional, as well as "Justifying the Need for PE," at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference in October.



Professor Paul Grubbs '01 presented the keynote, "Differentiated Instruction as a Reflection of our Christian Philosophy of Education," at the Minnesota ALHS Teachers' Conference at West LHS in October.

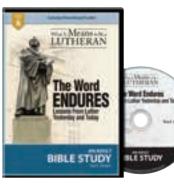
Professor Emeritus Arnold Koelpin

WLS '58 taught a Seminary Summer Quarter

course, The Lord's Supper, at MLC in July. In November he presented a lecture to Twin Cities university students and congregation members in preparation for their viewing of "Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation" at Minneapolis Institute of Arts. He taught three interactive courses on architectural landmarks in New Ulm, including Cathedral of the Holy Trinity and MLC's Chapel of the Christ, through CASTLE (Community and Seniors Together). Finally, in September he led a three-hour bus tour of New Ulm for 50 alumni and friends from the DMLC Class of 1966.

Professor Paul Koelpin

WLS '90 authored an eight-lesson Bible study about key truths of God's Word as echoed by Martin Luther. Titled "The Word Endures: Lessons from Luther Yesterday and Today," the study is part of the Northwestern Publishing House series, "What It Means to Be a Lutheran" and will be available in early 2017 in connection with the Reformation 500th anniversary.



Professor Emeritus Lyle Lange WLS '69 wrote a week of devotions for the Northwestern Publishing House publication Meditations. He also taught a Bible study at St. Mark-Watertown WI entitled, "Why, Lord? - A Survival Guide for Those Living in This World While Waiting for the Next."



Professors Emeritus Carla Melendy and Susan Haar DMLC '65 (pictured) presented "Integrating Math and Science in Pre-K" at the Nebraska and Dakota/Montana Teachers' Conference in Estes Park CO in October.

Dr. John Meyer DMLC '87, director of graduate studies and continuing education, presented a one-day workshop,

"Learning-Focused Instruction / Learning-Focused Supervision," for South Atlantic District teachers at Good Shepherd Lutheran Academy-Deltona FL in August.

Vice President for Mission Advancement Michael Otterstatter WLS '94 presented "The Role of ECE in Mission Outreach" to the Early Childhood Conference of the Nebraska District in June and "Doctrines That Divide" at Shoreland LHS's "Luther Days" in September.

Dr. Mark Paustian WLS '88 taught Hebrew Grammar Review as part of the Seminary Summer Quarter program on campus in July. He presented "Narrative Communication" in the Open Talks Series at Salem-Stillwater MN on August 12. He led a men's retreat on communication titled "Where Two or Three" in Brainerd MN September 16-18. He presented both a keynote and a sectional titled "Jars of Clay" at the Minnesota State Teachers' Conference in Stillwater on October 21. He also preached on the theme "Until He Blesses" at a Joint Reformation Rally in Denver on November 6.

Prof. Emeritus Dar Raddatz WLS '59 is teaching Bible class at Highland Regency House, the Lutheran Home Association senior housing complex near the MLC campus. He is teaching series on the parables of Jesus, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed under the theme, "The Lord Eagerly Waits for His Children."

Professor Jon Roux DMLC '95 presented "Shining Light Into Your Language Arts Curriculum: What Makes Up This Curriculum? How Might Standards Be Integrated?" at the Twin Cities Principals' Conference at St. Croix LHS in June; "The Nuts and Bolts of Writing Workshop" at the Michigan District Teachers' Conference at St. Paul-Livonia in October; and "Teaching Religion 2.0 - Revisiting a Classic" at the Minnesota District Teachers' Conference in October. He also served as guest organist at the organ dedication and 50th anniversary of Divine Savior-Shawano WI in June.

Professor Jon Schaefer MLC '02 presented "Formative Mentoring for Growth," at the South Atlantic District Teachers' Conference at King of Kings-Maitland FL in October.



Professor Tingting Z. Schwartz MS Ed '15 made presentations to the Ladies' Guild at Trinity-Nicollet MN in June and to the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society at St. Luke-Grand Rapids MN in October.

Professor Adrian Smith '03 presented two sectionals at the Wisconsin Lutheran State

Teachers' Conference in October: "Sing With Your Whole Self: Integrating Body, Mind, Spirit, and Voice Into an Upper Grade Choral Program" and "Choral Repertoire: Choosing Music for Your Singers." He also served as a guest clinician for the 2016 WELS Regional Choral Festival at Luther Preparatory School in November.

Dr. David Wendler DMLC '70, vice president for academics emeritus, continues to serve on the Higher Learning Commission, chairing hearings, teaching online, and training new peer reviewers. He also serves on the board of governors for National American University and consults monthly with the University Council of Jamaica.

Dr. Jeffery Wiechman DMLC '90, vice president for academics, presented the sectional "Teaching Elementary Level Social Studies: Why? How?" at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference in Milwaukee on October 27-28.

MLC Professors Advise Seminary Students

MLC professors are frequently asked to serve as thesis advisors for Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary seniors. This year **Professor Emeritus John Isch** DMLC '58 is advisor to Joshua Jensen '13, and Dr. Mark Paustian WLS '88 is advisor to **Peter Schlicht** '13.

Isch and Paustian have served as seminary advisors several times in the past. Other MLC professors who have served in this capacity are **Professors Paul Koelpin** WLS '90, Cheryl Loomis DMLC '77, Kermit Moldenhauer DMLC '71, and David Sellnow WLS '86.

On Sabbatical 2016-2017



Professor Thomas Nass WLS '82, professor of Hebrew, is writing a commentary for Concordia Publishing House. Seminary student Julius Buelow is teaching Hebrew in his absence.



Professor Miles Wurster, professor of music, is doing graduate work at Ball State University-Muncie IN. Instructor Erin Meissner is teaching music courses and directing Wind Symphony in his absence.

Retiring in June 2017

- Professor Joyce Diels DMLC '73
- Dr. James Grunwald DMLC '76
- Professor Earl Heidtke DMLC '73
- Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer DMLC '71
- Dr. Chip Rupnow DMLC '79

