

IN FOCUS

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

FALL 2017



In This Issue...

Reformation 500

Let the Children Come

MLC: Best College for Your Money

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Why Such a Prominent Luther Statue on Our Campus?

By MLC President Mark Zarling WLS '80



There is a tension for Bible-reading and Bible-believing Christians who observe ministry anniversary celebrations. It matters not whether it is a pastor's 25th anniversary of ordination, a teacher's retirement service after 40 years of ministry, or the 500th anniversary of Brother Martin's hammer work on a heavy church door. The tension resides in the balance between gratitude to God and gratitude to man. We want to properly apply Scripture to such observances lest we fall into the dreadful sin of obscuring the magnificence of God's grace behind trumped-up accolades of man's efforts.

Jesus warns his flock against glorifying sinners instead of the Savior. *But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called 'teacher,' for you have one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted* (Matthew 23). Such Scripture might suggest that the Luther statue be sold for scrap—certainly so if it stands honoring a human teacher above the divine Teacher.

However, the Spirit also inspired the apostle to offer this encouragement: *Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith* (Hebrews 13). Jesus, the Good Shepherd, provides faithful shepherds who feed their flocks with the gospel, through which the Spirit builds up the body of Christ, preserves souls in sound doctrine, equips God's people for service, and empowers all believers to grow up into him who is the Head (Ephesians 4).

Therefore, it is good and right for God's people to thank the Lord of the church for sending faithful servants of the Word, and the Luther statue can be a visible reminder of God's grace—how the Lord God can use a sinful human, despite all the despicable foibles and damnable failures inherent even in their best efforts, as a proclaimer of the Word of life. In contrast to man's mortality and frailty, God's grace shines. The power is in the message, not the messenger.

From the book *Reformation 500: The Enduring Relevance of the Lutheran Reformation*, a new collection of essays available from Northwestern Publishing House, nph.net. President Zarling's essay is titled "In Trembling Hands." Reprinted with permission.

On our cover:

Football players cheer on a future Knight at the Homecoming Sprinter Fun Run.

MLC *InFocus* is published by Martin Luther College Mission Advancement Office and is distributed free of charge to students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends. Comments are welcomed and should be directed to gaugerlf@mlc-wels.edu or Laurie Gauger, MLC *InFocus*, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm MN 56073.

The mission of MLC is to train a corps of Christian witnesses who are qualified to meet the ministry needs of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



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.

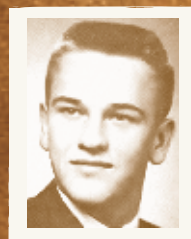
The alumni photos at the bottom of the pages are from the anniversary classes of MLC, NWC, and DMLC: '38, '43, '48, '53, '58, '63, '68, '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08, and '13. Thanks to Alumni Director Steve Balza DMLC '93, who provided this random selection of alumni.



Harry
Siewert
DMLC 1978
Mountainlake
Terrace WA



Marilyn
Hanel
DMLC 1988
San Jacinto CA



Kent
Schroeder
NWC 1963
Watertown WI

MLC's Stunning Statue



All four of the WELS ministerial schools—MLC, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Luther Preparatory School, and Michigan Lutheran Seminary—are home to a Martin Luther statue. Read a history of our campus statue at mlc-wels.edu/go/luther-statue, as researched by MLC Archives Team member **Paul Willems** DMLC '64. And next time you're on campus, spend some time with this beautiful statue and the instructive words on the pentagonal base.

- Now we know how we are to die, whence we are to go, also how we may escape death and the devil, who has redeemed us, and how we are to get these great treasures. These things we learn only from this book of Holy Scriptures.

(WA 47, 603. Martin Luther, Sermon on Matthew 47:27ff, preached on December 21, 1539.)

- Therefore, he who would correctly and profitably read Scripture should see to it that he finds Christ in it; then he finds life eternal without fail.

(WA 51, 04. Martin Luther. Sermon on John 5:39-43, preached in Halle on the Saale. August 5, 1545.)

- Let us ever keep this in mind, we shall have a hard time preserving the gospel without the languages. The languages are the sheath in which this sword of the Spirit is contained; they are the casket in which this jewel is enshrined.

(LW 45:360. Martin Luther, To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany That They Establish and Maintain Christian Schools. 1524.)

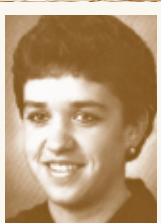
- From 1865 to 1995 Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin, provided undergraduate training for young men who desired to serve Christ as pastors in His church. Beginning in 1995 the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod moved the undergraduate training of pastors to Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota.

- A gift from the Northwestern College Board of Control to Martin Luther College.



Martin Luther

NOW WE KNOW HOW WE ARE TO DIE.
WHENCE WE ARE TO GO. ALSO HOW
WE MAY ESCAPE DEATH AND THE
DEVIL. WHO HAS REDEEMED US. AND
HOW WE ARE TO GET THESE GREAT



Lisa Bode
DMLC 1993
Prairie du Chien WI



Douglas Van Sice
MLC 2013
Capac MI



Melody Matthews
DMLC 1968
Juneau WI



John Lau
NWC 1948
Roscoe SD

REFORMATION 500

2017 is a big year for a college named after **Dr. Martin Luther** himself! Here's a quick recap of **Reformation 500** here on the hill.

InFocus Series: In this issue, Professor Emeritus Arnold Koelpin concludes his series, "Martin Luther: Radical Reformer." See page 6-7.

Luther's Christmas Pageant: Professor Emeritus Arnold Koelpin has formatted Luther's Christmas hymn, "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" as Luther had originally envisioned it: as a homespun family Christmas pageant. See page 8.

Campus Celebration Day: On November 1, 2017, students enjoyed a festival service, a Reformation lecture, Reformation Bible studies, and a screening of the film *A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy*.

Campus Lecture Series: November 1 was the first of our three lectures that explore the Lutheran Reformation as an educational movement. We welcome lecturers Professor Emeritus Arnold Koelpin, Dr. John Brenner, and Dr. Gottfried Herrmann.

Student Contests: Students participated in three competitions, a hymn contest, an art contest, and a T-shirt design contest—all on Reformation themes.

Reformation Mall Banners: Throughout 2017, campus walkways are adorned with commemorative banners.

Community Film Showing: The public was invited to watch *Martin Luther: A Return to Grace* on November 6 in the Wittenberg Auditorium.

Luther Lands Alumni Tour: The tour of Germany, the Austrian Alps, and Rome filled up fast, and a waiting list has been formed. Participants will travel and be tutored by MLC Professors Jim Danell, Paul Koelpin, Keith Wessel, and President Mark Zarling.

Reformation Devotion Book: Although October 31 is past, the 31 devotions of *I Shall Not Die, But Live* can be used at any time. Please go to mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions to download the book.

More details at mlc-wels.edu/alumni/reformation-500.



Paul Zittlow
NWC 1968
Kaukauna WI



Beth Ellwein
DMLC 1978
Rapid City SD



Joshua Jensen
MLC 2013
Ixonia WI



Sarah Thaens
DMLC 1993
Winter Springs FL

MLC Professors GRACE THE BIG SCREEN

Professor Paul Koelpin WLS '90 and Professors Emeriti Daniel Deutschlander WLS '68 and Arnold Koelpin WLS '58 were featured in the Luther documentary, *A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy*. Paul Koelpin (pictured) also appeared in *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World*.



As Reformation historians, the professors offered context and commentary on this world-altering movement and its lasting effects.

Both films were made by Boettcher + Trinklein Inc, the Emmy Award-winning production company of WELS members Steve Boettcher and Mike Trinklein. *The Idea that Changed the World* was featured on PBS in September. It's available on Netflix and on DVD from PBS. *A Return to Grace* played in churches and select cinemas. It is available on DVD from Northwestern Publishing House.

MLC Professors PREACH FOR REFORMATION 500 RALLIES AND SERVICES

Professor James Danell
WLS '90
Mandan ND

Professor Paul Koelpin
WLS '90
Appleton WI
St. Paul MN

Professor Thomas Nass
WLS '82
Watertown SD

VP Michael Otterstatter
WLS '94
Plymouth MN
San Diego CA

Dr. Mark Paustian
WLS '88
Las Vegas NV
Tucson AZ

Professor David Scharf
WLS '05
Bay City MI

Dr. Keith Wessel
WLS '91
Rochester MN
Glendale AZ

President Mark Zarling
WLS '80
Winner SD
Tempe AZ

MLC Professors PRESENT REFORMATION TOPICS

Professor James Danell WLS '90 (German) presented "Luther's Jewish Writings" at the St. Croix Pastors' Conference in September. He preached and then presented "From Luther to the Formula of Concord" at the Mission Festival of Zion-Morton MN in September. And he presented "Luther and the Reformation" at St. John-Vesta MN in October.

Professor Paul Koelpin WLS '90 (history/theology) presented "The Blessings and Challenges of 'Teaching Lutheran' in the 21st Century" at the Lutheran College Conference at MLC in August. The faculties of Bethany Lutheran College, Wisconsin Lutheran College, and Martin Luther College participated at this conference. He also presented the keynote "Take Every Thought Captive – Make It Obedient to Christ: On Being a Lutheran at Reformation 500" at the Southeast Wisconsin District Convention at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in June and Reformation-related topics at the Michigan and Minnesota District Teachers' Conferences in October.

Professor Thomas Nass was co-chair of the CELC committee that produced the "Ninety-Five Theses for the 21st Century."

Professor David Scharf WLS '05 (theology) presented on Luther's "Babylonian Captivity of the Church" for Bay Area Lutheran Ministries in Bay City MI.

Dr. Keith Wessel WLS '91 (Latin, Greek, theology) was the keynote speaker at the Arizona-California District Conference in San Diego in November. His three one-hour presentations centered on the Reformation and the continuing importance of Lutheran parish and elementary education.

President Mark Zarling WLS '80 wrote the essay "In Trembling Hands! With What Spirit Shall We Celebrate the Reformation?" for *Reformation 500: The Enduring Relevance of the Lutheran Reformation* (Northwestern Publishing House, 2017). He also presented "Luther and the Saints" at the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Symposium in October.



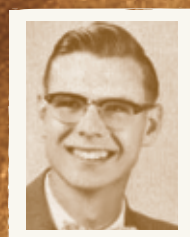
Roger Fenner
DMLC 1973
Fond du Lac WI



Lauren Dunn
MLC 2013
Minneapolis MN



David Geil
DMLC 1938
West Allis WI



Chester Cone Jr
NWC 1958
Potosi WI

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 *The Fine Art of Music*

Martin Luther, the "nightingale of Wittenberg," loved music and poetry. Love for the arts is one of the most significant features of his character. As a hymn writer, Luther excels in style and sentiment. Artistically his hymns, though rough-hewn at times, unite form and content so well that they do not have to be learned. Just singing the hymns impresses them on the memory, much to our joy.

The reason for the enduring appeal of Martin Luther's hymns is not hard to find. His hymns talk to people because they talk like people. His compositions are simple, blunt, crisp, and heartfelt. One can sense in them a feeling for the rhythm of life. They breathe the air of trust, as children trust.

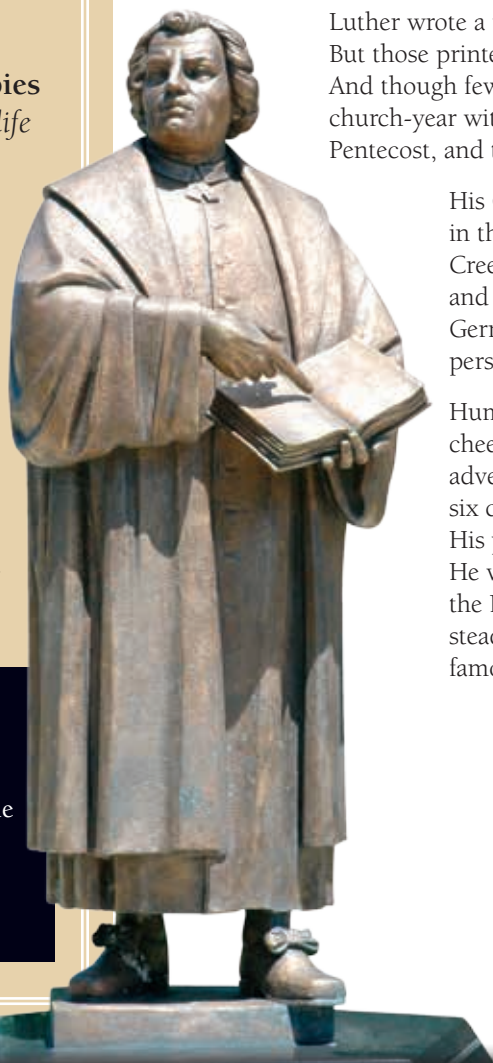
Yet Luther's eye does not focus merely on people themselves. God is the center of the message. Luther blends personal expressions of faith with celebration of the mighty works of God: God's ever-attendant care, Jesus' suffering for us, and the Spirit's gift of joy.

Luther wrote a modestly small number of hymns. About 40 have survived. But those printed in today's hymnals have become classic hymns of faith. And though few in number, their scope is wide. The Reformer bookends the church-year with songs from Advent and Christmas through Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and the Holy Trinity.

His Catechism hymns aim to educate Christians, young and old, in the chief parts of Christian faith: Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism, Confession, and the Holy Supper. His creativity makes Hebrew psalms sing in German style. He translates Latin hymns, transforming and personally interpreting them.

Humanly speaking, we may express our surprise at Luther's cheerfulness. Like St. Paul, his triumphant faith was born in adversity. Married later in life, Martin suffered the loss of two of his six children. His teenaged daughter Magdalena died in his arms. His years in public ministry were marked with personal tragedy. He was excommunicated by the Roman Church and exiled by the Emperor. Through it all, God taught him the patience and steadfastness that became the stamp of the Reformation. His most famous hymn says it with the certainty born of faith:

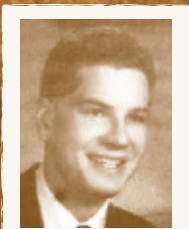
A mighty Fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon. . . .
Though devils all the world should fill . . .
We tremble not; we fear no ill.
They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will.
He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done.
One little word can fell him.



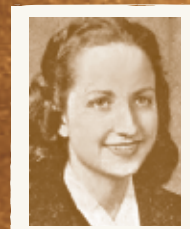
Herbert
Winterstein
NWC 1963
Saginaw MI



Erin
Gray
MLC 2003
Tempe AZ



Timothy
Otto
NWC 1993
Milwaukee WI



Mary
Lange
DMLC 1948
Jamestown ND

God's Word was his comfort and inspiration. Trials and tests drove him to the Scriptures. They revealed the God who cares. Hope and joy inspired him to write an autobiographical hymn. In it, Martin the sinner hears the intimate conversation between God the Father and Jesus his Son, set as an exchange between God and sinners:

Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice
With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How his right arm the victory won! . . .

He spoke to his beloved Son:
'Tis time to have compassion. . . .
The Son obeyed the Father's will,
Was born of virgin mother . . .
A servant's form for us he bore
To lead the devil captive. . . .

abound with the message. The holy Lord exchanges the riches of heaven for a life of suffering, shame, and death on our behalf. We, in turn, are released of our sinfulness and receive eternal life and salvation from him.

An adversary once accused Martin Luther of leading more people astray through his hymns than through his sermons. The remark was meant in scorn to the Reformer's success in preaching the gospel. But Luther's love of music even moved him to confess to a master musician in Munich, "I really believe nor am I ashamed to assert that next to theology there is no art equal to music, for it is the only one, except theology, which can give a quiet and happy mind. . . . This is the reason why the prophets practiced no other art, neither geometry nor arithmetic nor astronomy, as if they believed music and divinity nearly allied."

Not surprisingly, therefore, Luther encouraged princes and city councils to secure outstanding musicians for their churches.

"Next to theology there is no art equal to music, for it is the only one, except theology, which can give a quiet and happy mind."

- Martin Luther

His songs intentionally aim to bring each Christian comfort under trial: "We sing . . . neither songs of mourning nor of lament to our dead," he wrote, "but songs of comfort, songs about forgiveness, of life, resurrection, which strengthens our faith and shall encourage the people to true devotion."

Some hymns even become graphic portraits. How smoothly we read the lines, "Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands for our offenses given. But now at God's right hand he stands and brings us life from heaven." Its stanzas flow over our tongues and return easily to our hearts and minds in prayer. We hardly realize this hymn is not an original, but Luther's translation of an ancient melody.

The craftsman distinguishes himself also in variety. He employs different rhythms in a wide range to fit the themes. But the heartbeat of the Reformer's proclamation is the joyous exchange between Christ and the sinner. And Luther's hymns

"It is right that we retain music in the schools," Luther commented. "The young are to be continually exercised in this art; it makes good and skillful people of them."

And so it is that congregational singing and hymnody remain the hallmark of the Lutheran church to this day 500 years later.



**Jeffery
Halldorson**
NWC 1993
Alberta Canada



**Melissa
Festerling**
MLC 2003
Marshall MN



**Harold
Runke**
DMLC 1953
Hutchinson MN



**Cindy
Bretschneider**
DMLC 1978
Pierce NE

LUTHER'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Adapted by Professor Emeritus Arnold Koelpin

Martin Luther liked to celebrate Christmas with the freshness and spontaneity of a child. He composed the Christmas hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" to be enacted as a family Christmas pageant. Published in 1535, it may well have been written for the previous Christmas, when his son Hans was 8 and his daughter Lenchen was 5.

Imagine: Near the Christmas tree stood a cradle. Most likely Luther himself, with his fine tenor voice, took the part of the angel and sang stanzas 1-2, where the angel announced: "From heaven above to earth I come to bear good news to every home."

Perhaps his wife, Katie, continued the angel's announcement in stanzas 3-4, and then together, in stanza 5, they invited the children to come to the cradle.

The Luther children, like shepherds, were probably waiting not far from the cradle: John (Hans), Elizabeth, Magdalena (Lenchen), Martin, Paul, and Margaret. "Look now, you children, at the sign" was their cue. They took up the song at stanza 6: "How glad we'll be that it is so! With all the shepherds let us go."

We can imagine them approaching the cradle, individually or together, as they sang each of the subsequent stanzas, marveling at the Christ-child and inviting him into their hearts.

And finally, the entire family joined in the closing doxology of stanza 15: "Glory to God in highest heaven!"

**Elizabeth died in infancy, but we have included her in the pageant nonetheless.*



"Luther on Christmas Eve" was painted by Bernhard Plockhurst in 1887.

You can reenact this inclusive and intimate family Christmas pageant in your home, whether you have just a few people or a large group. Find the pageant, with hymn stanzas and the easy-to-use instructions, at mlc-wels.edu/go/luther-christmas.



**Herbert
Huhnerkoch**
NWC 1973
Redwood Falls MN



**Sarah
Dolan**
MLC 1998
Appleton WI



**Mark
Henrich**
NWC 1983
Delano MN



**Sherese
Henry**
MLC 2013
St. John's Antigua

GLAD Tidings OF GREAT Joy



Dear friend in Jesus,

Every heart thrills to hear glad tidings—even more so when holy angels underscore the validity of the tidings: *A Savior has been born for you!*

These tidings change a heart from guilt to cheer. They change a life from distraction to focus. They change a destiny from a tomb to a throne.

Please rejoice with us in these glad tidings. Please partner with us as we train more messengers to proclaim these glad tidings all over the world.

Mark L. Zarling

Rev. Mark Zarling
President, Martin Luther College



Current priorities

Your gift will help us prepare men and women to meet WELS ministry needs—new pastors, teachers, and staff ministers as well as current called workers who want continuing education.

Immersion programs

Your gift will help fund Chinese and Spanish immersion programs. Proficiency in these two languages, the most widely spoken in the world, prepares students to share the gospel with millions of souls here and abroad.

Financial aid

Your gift will help ensure that students committed to ministerial training can attend MLC despite financial obstacles and can graduate from MLC without excessive debt.

Campus enhancement

Your gift will help us maintain our campus facilities and conduct repairs and improvements as needed.



Thomas Gray
DMLC 1993
Phoenix AZ



Jo Ann Martens
DMLC 1958
New Prague MN



Conrad Prell
NWC 1978
Kendall WI



Lisa Komay
MLC 2008
Onalaska WI

2017-2018 Martin Luther College Governing Board



Back row: **Joe Archer** DMLC '78, **Jon Brohn** WLS '96, **Michael Woldt** WLS '81 (*chair*), **Charles Degner** WLS '79 (*Minnesota District president*), **Andrew Van Weele** '04; middle row: **Timothy Petermann**, **Michael Krueger**, **Michael Vallean**, **Steven Rosenbaum** DMLC '86 (*secretary*), **Mark Zarling** WLS '80 (*MLC president*); front row: **Dale Krause**, **David Uhlhorn** MLC '99, **Michael Seifert** WLS '03 (*vice chair*), **Daniel Leyrer** WLS '89, **Randy Matter** (*advisory*), **Michael Lindemann** WLS '91; not pictured: **Mark Schroeder** WLS '81 (*WELS president*), **Paul Prange** WLS '88 (*Ministerial Education administrator*).

The MLC Governing Board met September 28-29, 2017, on campus. A summary of their actions:

■ Endorsed **urban education ministry/Spanish** minor.

■ Approved MLC's participation in Wisconsin LHS **Urban Teacher Initiative**, appointing a subcommittee to develop the details.

■ Faculty actions for 2018-19:

- Reassigned Professor Steven Thiesfeldt from vice president for administration to classroom professor and **director of institutional research and effectiveness**.
- Appointed Professor Scott Schmudlach as **vice president for administration**.
- Approved call for **professor of education**, specifically psychology and special education (replacing Dr. Alan Spurgin, retired).

- Approved call for **professor of education**, specifically art and other courses as needed (replacing Professor Lance Hartzell, retiring).

- Approved call for **professor of education** and student teacher supervisor (replacing Professor Scott Schmudlach).

■ Synod certification:

- Directed college to review synod certification courses in view of **urban ministry** needs.
- Directed college to implement a "test-out" competency option.
- Directed Chairman Woldt to appoint study committee on delivering synod certification courses via **satellite sites**.
- Gave the Apache Christian Training School authority to certify **Apache teachers** locally.



Thomas Kutz
NWC 1973
Fort Atkinson WI



Mary Sternhagen
MLC 1998
New Orleans LA



Daniel Johnson
MLC 2003
Corona CA



Allen Dohm
DMLC 1983
Eau Claire MI

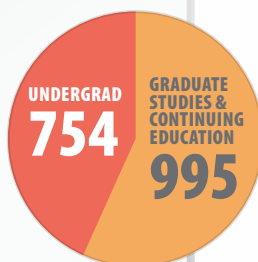
- Approved **fee increases** of 5% for 2018-2019, bringing tuition, room and board to \$21,490. Also approved a 5% **accompanying increase in financial aid**.
- Endorsed expansion of **Congregational Partner Grant Program** to include third-year students and eventually fourth-year students.
- Ratified the hiring of Credo as a **consulting firm** for the upcoming capital campaign.
- Approved **designation of funds**: \$3.1 million for institutional financial aid, \$100,000 for emergency maintenance needs, and \$100,000 for Credo consultation fees.
- Adopted a revised unrestricted net asset policy, setting the **Economic Sustainability Fund (ESF)** minimum and maximum target balances and limiting the funds available for allocation to the operating budget per year.

MLC ENROLLMENT 2017-2018

1,749 students

754 undergraduate students

995 graduate & continuing ed students



UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT BREAKDOWN

754 undergrads on campus

50% male / 50% female

99% traditional aged

51% from area Lutheran high schools

33% from preparatory schools

16% from public, private, home schools

8 countries represented

WELCOME, NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Jonathan Brohn WLS '96 is pastor at Salem-Stillwater MN.

"I am thankful to serve," he says, "so that I can help support our college of ministry and help as many young men and women as possible become full-time servants in God's kingdom. I'm excited to see so many different opportunities for serving—international teaching, urban ministry, overseas studies, and immersion trips. Our mission fields are a lot closer today than they have been in the past."

Michael Krueger is a recently retired engineer who serves as president of his congregation, Good Shepherd-Midland MI; president of the Michigan Lutheran Seminary Foundation board; treasurer for the Pregnancy Care Centers in Saginaw and Flint; and a Bible class teacher at the Juvenile Care Center.

He says, "I'm excited to hear about the opportunities MLC has to support the training of men and women in our world ministry fields for service as teachers and staff ministers. What an opportunity to show the common ministry of WELS World Missions and Ministerial Education!"

Daniel Leyrer WLS '89 served as a professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for 18 years before accepting a call to St. Marcus-Milwaukee.

"I'm eager to play whatever role I can to connect our ministerial education system with the urban mission field," he says. "My excitement for MLC's future is this—that our college of ministry will continue to be the answer to one of God's people's most earnest prayers: 'Dear Lord of the Harvest, send out workers into your harvest field' (Matthew 9:38)."

Andrew Van Weele '04 is principal at Lord of Life-Friendswood TX.

"I'm often thankful for the training that Martin Luther College gave me," he says. "It's a great feeling to know I can be a small part of a much larger ministry happening at MLC. At the end of the day, the thing that excites me most about MLC is the students, those men and women who soon will be our colleagues in the ministry, the next generation of workers sharing Jesus with his children and their families. That is what our college is all about."



Marina Sampe
MLC 2013
Fort Worth TX



Mark Broecker
NWC 1968
Chicago IL



Mike Raddatz
NWC 1998
New Ulm MN



Ruth Voigt
DMLC 1968
Glencoe MN

here on the

hill

Call for *Thalassa* Submissions

Martin Luther College has now begun accepting submissions for the 12th 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.

PAST WINNERS: mlc-wels.edu/thalassa

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: mlc-wels.edu/thalassa

DEADLINE: April 15, 2018

2017 WINNER: REBECCA WENDLAND

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Roth
DMLC 1983
Auburn MI



2018 College Choir Tour

The MLC College Choir will share God's Word in song in the Northeast this spring. Please plan to attend a concert near you, or follow the choir online with videos from the concerts and stories from the bus at www.facebook.com/mlcwels

- Fri, Feb 23 Atonement-Baltimore MD – 7:00 pm
- Sat, Feb 24 Grace-Falls Church VA – 7:00 pm
- Sun, Feb 25 Divine Peace-Largo MD – 10:00 am (service)
- Mon, Feb 26 Resurrection-Chesapeake VA – 7:00 pm
- Tue, Feb 27 Peace-King of Prussia PA – 7:30 pm
- Wed, Feb 28 Messiah-South Windsor CT – 7:00 pm
- Thu, Mar 1 King of Kings-Clifton Park NY – 7:00 pm
- Fri, Mar 2 Our Savior-East Brunswick NJ – 7:00 pm
- Sun, Mar 4 St. John-Newark DE – 9:00 am (service)
- Sun, Mar 18 MLC Chapel of the Christ – 3:00 pm



Six Seniors Fill Emergency Calls

When Call Day arrived last May, MLC's supply of teacher candidates was not large enough to fill the needs of WELS schools. More than 50 teacher vacancies went unfilled.

To help meet the need, six MLC seniors have accepted emergency one-year calls to elementary schools in five different states:

Ryan Henning (*New Ulm MN*)
to **Trinity-Belle Plaine MN**: gr 5-6

Jenna (Maurer) Herlich (*Bellingham MA*)
to **Pilgrim-Minneapolis MN**: gr 7-8

Samantha Koepsell (*Appleton WI*)
to **Christ the King-Bremerton WA**: gr 5-6

Faith Schroeder (*Novi MI*)
to **Emmaus-Phoenix AZ**: gr 1-2

Elizabeth Schwartz (*Greendale WI*)
to **Risen Savior-Milwaukee WI**: gr 5

Joel Westenberg (*Marshfield WI*)
to **St. John-Libertyville IL**: gr 7-8



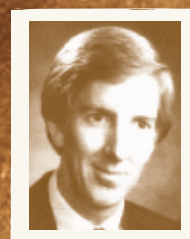
Joel Voss
MLC 2008
Williamston MI



Adam Mateske
MLC 1998
Lake Mills WI



Bonnie Jaeger
DMLC 1973
Helenville WI



Gregory Rush
DMLC 1988
San Jose CA

Focus On *Sports*

CROSS COUNTRY

The history of the MLC men's cross country program is rich, thanks to ten UMAC championships since 1995. Included in that stretch were eight straight championships from 1998 through the 2005 season.

Coach **Matt Pearson** '97 and the Knights entered this season looking to win the conference championship for the first time since 2008. MLC tied for first place in the UMAC Preseason Coaches' Poll thanks to four returning All-UMAC performers in seniors **Justin Wilkens** (*Bethlehem-Manassas VA*) and **Jonathan Fleischmann** (*Trinity-Kaukauna WI*), as well as sophomores **Ben Bitter** (*St. John-Milwaukee*) and **Ryan Gurgel** (*Christ Alone-Thiensville WI*).

Bitter led the team to a great first month of the season, winning the UMAC Runner of the Week award twice. He won his first award after finishing eighth out of 278 runners at the St. Olaf Invitational on September 16. All nine UMAC programs attended that event, and the Knights finished ahead of each of the other eight schools.

Bitter's second conference award came after a second-place finish at Wisconsin Lutheran College. Bitter set a new personal best time (25:57.7) to help MLC to a first-place team finish at the event.

Gurgel picked up the pace in the team's next meet, winning UMAC Runner of the Week after a fifth-place finish at Loras College on October 6. Gurgel was also among the top six the previous week at WLC, and finished with the second-best time of any UMAC runner at St. Olaf.

The UMAC Championships will take place on Saturday, October 28, at Minnesota-Morris. The team has one final tune-up at Crown College on October 14 before that event.

VOLLEYBALL

Senior outside hitter **Kira Grev** (*Divinity-St. Paul MN*, pictured) moved into special company thanks to a pair of milestones reached this season.

The three-time First Team All-UMAC performer became the fifth player in program history to reach 1,000 kills for her career in the team's match against Crown College on September 16. Later in the season, Grev moved into third place in program history with more than 1,100 career kills, trailing **Rachel Meyer** (2003-06) and **Rebecca Engelbrecht** (2010-13) on the all-time list.

Grev added to her career accomplishments on October 17 when she became the tenth player in program history to record 1,000 career digs.

Grev is one of only three MLC players to reach that milestone in both categories, joining **Lisa Gawrisch** (1997-2000) and Engelbrecht on that list.

Senior middle hitter **Rylee Weisensel** (*St. John-New Ulm MN*) has also jumped up the career record list with a strong senior campaign. Weisensel moved into fourth place in program history with 243 career assisted blocks, and also ranks seventh with 277 total blocks for her career.

Grev and Weisensel are joined on the team by five senior classmates, including **Taylor Weber** (*Bethlehem-Germantown WI*), **Jade St. Germaine** (*St. Mark-Watertown WI*), **Grace Schultz** (*First-Lake Geneva WI*), **Jenna Miller** (*Riverview-Appleton WI*), and **Heidi Moldenhauer** (*St. John-Manitowoc WI*). Those five helped Coach **Becky Cox** '89 and the Knights to an 8-3 start to the conference season, tying them for third place heading into the final two weeks of the regular season. Grev, Weisensel, St. Germaine, and Weber each rank among the top ten in the UMAC in several different statistical categories as the team pushes towards its eighth straight berth in the UMAC Postseason Tournament.





SOCCER

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Coach **Jeff Schone** WLS '87 and the women's soccer team's record-breaking defense has the Knights off to one of the best starts in program history.

The Knights started the season 7-4-2 overall and 6-1-1 in UMAC play on the way to the program's first trip to the UMAC Postseason Tournament since the 2013 season.

Defense has led the way as the Knights posted seven shutouts through 13 games, six of which came in the first eight UMAC contests to push the Knights into the top three in the conference standings heading into the final week of the regular season.

Following an 0-1-1 start to the season, the veteran defense led by seniors **Sarah Kell** (*Christ-Zumbrota MN, pictured*), **Emily Muir** (*Trinity-Watertown WI*), and **Elise Rosenbaum** (*Grace-St. Joseph MI*) posted five straight shutouts over the next five games to tie a school record previously set during the 2002 season. During that stretch, the Knights held opponents to 39 total shots and 14 shots on goal, all of which were stopped by junior goalkeeper **Erin Feddersen** (*Shepherd of the Bay-Lusby MD*), and outscored opponents 16-0 on the way to a 4-0-1 record.

Playing in front of the veteran defense has been a young group of offensive players who have added scoring punch. First-year midfielder **Lydia Bitter** (*St. Mark-Bemidji MN*) led the team through 13 games with seven goals and 15 total points.

Sophomore midfielder **Morgan Hill** (*Abiding Word-Houston*) recorded a team-high four assists to go with six goals and 16 total points, while senior **Hailey Johnson** (*St. Paul-Green Bay WI*) and sophomore **Mary Falck** (*Bethlehem-Menomonee Falls WI*) each had three goals and one assist.

Defenders Muir and Kell have even gotten into the act offensively, combining for three goals this season.



FOOTBALL

Coach **Mark Stein** DMLC '92 and the football team rolled to its best start since the 2009 season with a 4-2 record through six weeks.

The inexperienced Knights entered the season with only nine juniors and seniors on the roster, but opened with a 14-7 non-conference win at Minnesota-Morris, thanks to a touchdown pass from first-year quarterback **Zach Bloomquist** (*St. Jacobi-Greenfield WI*) to junior receiver **Josh Arndt** (*Good Shepherd-Burnsville MN*) with 15 seconds to play in the game.

MLC built off that win with home victories against Iowa Wesleyan (42-20) and Greenville (34-20), and then held off Minnesota-Morris for the second time this season in a 14-7 Homecoming win on October 7. Sophomore **Ian Paulsen** (*St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI, pictured*) started at quarterback for the Knights in that game and completed 15 of 29 passes for 195 yards and one score.

Bloomquist helped the Knights to the hot start with seven passing touchdowns and a team-high five rushing scores, while sophomore running backs **Nate Stein** (*St. John-Pardeeville WI*) (392 rushing yards) and **Josh Wong** (*St. Paul-North Mankato MN*) (365 rushing yards) helped MLC rank third in the UMAC in rushing yards per game. Through six games, **Arndt** caught 19 passes for 406 yards and five touchdowns, helping him move into the top five in program history in both receiving touchdowns (15) and yards (1237).

The defense also made a big turnaround this season and ranks among the UMAC leaders in interceptions and quarterback sacks. Sophomore cornerback **Joe Herrewig** (*Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI*) leads the team with a pair of interceptions, while sophomore defensive end **Dan Gensmer** (*Christ Our Savior-Columbia TN*) recorded a team-best 3.5 sacks and six tackles for loss through six games.



Let the Children Come!

MLC PREPARES EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Early childhood ministries (ECMs) are growing fast in our WELS congregations, and for good reason: These WELS preschools and early learning centers are greenhouses for the gospel, where the Spirit is shining on the tender little hearts of children and growing them up in the faith. Often they carry their stories of Jesus home to their parents as well, with the result that whole families meet Jesus for the first time.

In this special *InFocus* Early Childhood Ministry section, we begin with Professor Cheryl Loomis's list of eight indicators of a high-quality ECM. We learn quickly that ECM is not sanctified babysitting but intentional, goal-driven nurture and education.

Then we feature two ECMs administered by recent MLC graduates. The way these teachers put Professor Loomis's eight indicators into action is proof of the efficacy of this

ministry. And please pay special attention to the support they receive from their pastors as well!

We also share with you the professional development options available to inservice teachers who want to grow in their knowledge and skills—for the sake of their students and their schools.

And finally, MLC graduates encourage high school students to consider this challenging and rewarding ministry.

If you know of some high school students who love Jesus and little children and who want to dive into the research and practice of this specific pedagogy, please encourage them to consider MLC. They can study at our state-of-the-art learning center, which you so generously funded a few years ago!

At the MLC Early Childhood Learning Center, college students learn ECE pedagogy under the supervision of expert professors and lead teachers. The center enrolls children birth to age 5, offering them the Word of God, a research-based whole-child curriculum, and a state-of-the-art facility.



Eight Indicators of High-Quality **EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES**

By Professor **Cheryl Loomis** DMLC '77



The mission of WELS Early Childhood Ministries (ECM) is to partner with families in providing Christian care and education for their children. High-quality programs are marked by eight indicators:

1. Christ-centered mission, purpose, vision

The purpose of the early childhood ministry is clearly connected to the work of the church: gospel ministry. High quality is evidenced when that gospel focus—telling others of Jesus' work of salvation—is seen in all the work of the ECM. ECM is a vital part of the work of the congregation.

2. Ministry team

Gospel ministry is accomplished by a ministry team. The Christ-centered mission provides a focus for the team, and communication is vital in making teamwork a reality. The makeup of a team may look different among congregations, but each member (pastor, ECM director, principal, teachers, board members) works together to support and respect the team's ministry.

3. Partnership with families

The ECM supports families in their role of nurturing a child, recognizing that God has given parents the responsibility to provide Christian training for their children. A high-quality partnership has a welcoming atmosphere where families are encouraged to participate.

4. Qualified teachers

Early childhood teachers need a solid foundation in the Word. They are actively involved in worship and in the life of the congregation. They are synodically certified. In addition, they have college degrees in early childhood education. Industry standards require degreed teachers who possess a thorough understanding of the theory and practice of early childhood education.

5. Curriculum that addresses all areas of child development

High-quality programs use a research-based curriculum to provide experiences that help children grow in all areas of life. That's a worldly mark of quality, but it's important. WELS ECMs provide that *and more* as children gather daily to hear the Word and as teachers teach "the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord."

6. Safe, secure, and age-appropriate environment

A high-quality environment reflects Christ's love through a display of religious art along with a warm and inviting atmosphere of Christian words and actions. You will recognize it when you see it; it's evident that this is a Christian space. A high-quality space also includes a variety of materials that will stimulate a child's curiosity. And the environment doesn't stop indoors; the outside environment is also filled with materials to explore and discover. Licensing is a mark of quality too. Does the ECM meet building and safety codes? State and local authorities demand it, and families expect it.

7. Appropriate teacher-child ratios

Best practices in early education demand a proper ratio of children to teachers. The younger the child, the smaller the ratio. Maintaining appropriate ratios helps ensure quality as teachers are able to intentionalize their interactions with each child in their care.

8. Support for professional development

High-quality teachers are lifelong learning professionals. A high-quality ECM recognizes the necessity of supporting teachers in this endeavor. Congregations encourage teachers with their words and with financial support for continuing education and professional growth.



Beautiful Savior Lutheran Preschool-Las Vegas: CARING, SHARING, PREPARING



On Thursday nights **Erin Stob '16** (pictured) attends the Basic Bible Questions class at Beautiful Savior-Las Vegas. An MLC-trained teacher wouldn't usually attend a beginner's Bible class, but Erin isn't doing this for herself.

This is the story: Last school year, two of Mrs. Stob's aides came bounding into her office, excited because one of the preschool moms mentioned she wanted to get her daughter baptized. Erin reached out to the mom and offered to take the Basic Bible Questions course with her. It's become their regular Thursday night date. And yes, the little girl was baptized. "It was on Easter in front of a full church and a life-sized tomb," Erin says. "We all cried many joyful and thankful tears. The little girl went around telling all her friends she'd been 'baptized' on Easter."

It's a beautiful story, but it's not that surprising. Sharing the gospel with little children and their families is the primary purpose of WELS early childhood ministries. At Beautiful Savior Lutheran Preschool, they put it this way: CARING for children's and families' needs, SHARING the love of Jesus, and PREPARING young hearts and minds for now and the future.

An Early Childhood Director's Schedule

Erin's Thursday night Bible classes are one small item on a very busy schedule. She opens the school each morning at 7, and when the 45 children arrive, they begin their day with

Pastor Andrew Mueller's chapel service. After chapel, they practice for the next time they'll be singing in church, and then they break into three sections: 4K, 3K, and Rising 3K. Erin teaches until noon and works on her administrative tasks in the afternoons. Like any school administrator, her tasks include financials, state licensing regulations, creating marketing materials, maximizing enrollment, planning outreach events, and evaluating staff—not to mention the emails, phone calls, and meetings with staff and parents that punctuate the day.

Curriculum Planning

A preschool may sometimes look like a playschool to the uneducated eye, but these playtimes are actually finely tuned curricular activities, with specific learning outcomes attached. That's why it's so important that a college-degreed educator lead the school. At Beautiful Savior, Erin led a complete curriculum revamping and intensive teacher training last summer. She worked closely with her 14 staff members, "rebuilding their knowledge of teaching through their own reflection and self-evaluation." She's proud of the enthusiasm and the growth of her staff, both professionally and as a team.

The Support of a Good Pastor

Erin sees her pastor's support as another blessing of the school. In addition to his daily chapel services, Pastor Mueller has weekly meetings with her, he provides professional and personal counseling and encouragement, and he attends the events to build relationships with the families.



The Outreach Events

The school and church outreach events at Beautiful Savior bring in hundreds of attendees. “Trunk or Treat” (which is trick-or-treating out of decorated trunks—plus a train, petting zoo, bouncy houses, and face painting) brought in 350 people last year, each one of them a soul who is becoming more comfortable with the people and the facilities at Beautiful Savior.

Mrs. Stob’s favorite event is Bedtime Stories Night. The three classroom teachers each prepare a 10-minute story. Everyone comes in their PJs, including the teachers, and the children and families rotate through the classrooms, hearing all the stories, and then finishing in the chapel, where the church youth group performs a Readers’ Theater production for them. Of course there’s milk and cookies.

It’s About the Gospel

It might be easy to get lost in the details of this bustling preschool, but Erin keeps her eye fixed on the most important part of this ministry. Inside the classrooms, the children are immersed in the Word, both at Bible time and in all the classes. They even line up to a signal song: “My God Is So Great.”

And every minute of the day, in and out of the classroom, Erin knows the importance of “building relationships between the school, the church, and our community here in Vegas,” because it’s relationships that lead to gospel conversations.

Pastor’s PERSPECTIVE

Pastor **Andrew Mueller** WLS ’06, Beautiful Savior-Las Vegas

Our preschool is a valuable part of our ministry: The Lord has widened the audience for his message through our preschool. Our church reputation has improved and grown with the help of the school and its various activities. Specifically, the school and our congregation’s two moms’ groups (Mornings with Mommy, Beautiful Moms & Tots) have worked well in tandem so that there’s a natural bridge of participation/enrollment in both directions.

Our preschool opens avenues to serve friends of our ministry (non-members): Our Care Committee provided physical support to at least five families impacted by the recent mass shooting in Las Vegas. We’ve also provided marital counseling to various families.

How pastors can support preschool staffs: Cultivate a supportive working relationship with your staff. Befriend your director. Eat lunch with your staff. Communicate well and regularly with them. Encourage them. Defend their reputations if needed. When school board, teachers, and staff love to serve in the school setting, their gospel joy emanates to parents and community in a way that statistics and monthly reports cannot measure.



Trinity Christian Early Childhood Centre – St. Lucia A SERVANT TEACHES HOW TO SERVE



At Trinity Christian Early Childhood Centre-St. Lucia, director and teacher **Evodia Cassius-Noel** '16 is a servant of the Word and of her young students. And she makes sure her students are learning to serve others as well.

The church and school are in an area of the island that is considered problematic, she says. "Before enrolling in our school, many of the students had not been exposed to books, physical activity, or simple things like shopping in the supermarket or interacting with people beyond their families."

Donors pay 50-75% of the students' tuition, allowing them to attend this Christian centre that introduces them to the world—and also to the Word. "Students are learning how much God loves them," Evodia says.

And then their teacher leads them to share that love in their community. "We do random acts of love—small service projects for the public. To date we have given candy canes and the Christmas message to the staff of the special education unit on our island, donated money to the children's orphanage, and served tea and coffee to people in the Bisee community on their way to work."

The preschool is small, with 16 students aged 2-5, but the impact they are making on their community is large. People are noticing, and enrollment is on the rise.

Evodia is grateful. Originally from St. Lucia herself, she gave up a few seasons of St. Lucia sun for Minnesota snow so she could earn her early childhood education degree from MLC and then come back home and make a difference. That's the kind of servant she is.

Adapted from CLS e-News, a publication of WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools (September 6, 2017).





To Prospective COLLEGE STUDENTS

High school students, are you considering early childhood education as a future calling? It's a challenging ministry—one that takes love for children, an understanding of family dynamics, and extensive knowledge about children's growth, development, and learning. Does this sound like a match for your gifts?

As an early childhood education major at MLC, you'll take courses like these:

- Child Development (birth-age 8)
- Preprimary Curriculum
- Primary Curriculum
- The Child in the Family
- Teaching Literacy
- Early Childhood Exceptionality
- Administration of Early Childhood Programs

You'll also complete clinical experiences at a WELS school and a public school. And finally, you'll student teach for a full semester at the Martin Luther College Early Childhood Learning Center (*pictured*) under the supervision of MLC professors.

Teacher and director **Erin Stob '16** encourages you to consider it: "Being an early childhood education (ECE) major was the best part of being at MLC for me. Early childhood classes are fun and extremely applicable to the world you'll be called into. I absolutely loved my professors and the

friends I made in my major. The new MLC Early Childhood Learning Center is an amazing environment to learn in as well. You'll feel like you're in an entirely different world while you student teach.

"I chose to be in ECE for two reasons: one, because I know I have a lot of love to give to the children in my care. Two, ECE ministries are an amazing outreach tool. If you are passionate about 'going into all the world' and following Christ's commission to you, early childhood education is a wonderful way to fulfill that goal. You could end up living near your hometown or in a brand new place—even Vegas! We would love to have you!"





Attention: Early Childhood EDUCATORS

Teachers, is it time to step up your skills? Martin Luther College has the program that will meet you where you are and take you to the next level. Invest in your students, your school, and yourself!

IF THIS IS YOU:

THEN THIS IS YOUR PROGRAM:

I have no college degree.

OR

I have a college degree, but it's not in early childhood education.

Early Childhood EDUCATOR SERIES

11 short courses (*almost all 1-credit*) that develop a basic understanding of early childhood education: spiritual, intellectual, physical, and emotional

I'm a licensed/qualified ECE teacher in my state, but I want to be certified to teach in WELS schools.

OR

I've been called to be a WELS early childhood ministry teacher, but I'm not synod-certified.

Early Childhood TEACHER SYNOD CERTIFICATION

Teachers: 12 courses (*1-, 2-, and 3-credit*) plus a five-week practical experience that trains teachers to meet WELS ministry needs and to proclaim the Word of God faithfully

Directors: 8 courses (*3-credit*) plus a five-week practical experience

I'm a state-licensed and synod-certified early childhood teacher who wants to maximize the outreach potential of my preschool.

Early Childhood OUTREACH ESSENTIALS

5 short courses (*all 1-credit*) that provide outreach tools to connect students and families to Christ and the local congregation

Directors and future directors, is it time to get your master's degree? The Master of Science in Educational Administration is an online degree program that provides training to meet the WELS principal and early childhood director standards. It's designed for persons who have an undergraduate degree in education from an accredited college or university.

**Practical, convenient,
and affordable.**

ECE DIRECTOR EMPHASIS

Educational Leadership

Supervision of Instruction

Leading the School Community

Leadership for Change

School Business Administration

Foundations of Educational Research

The Director as Leader

Early Childhood Curriculum

Development of Young Children

Legal & Ethical Issues in Early Childhood

Graduate Photo Gallery

Do you enjoy perusing the headshots of MLC, DMLC, and NWC graduates? Ever been surprised by how many of them you know? Now you can view all these photos—organized by school and class—at mlc-wels.edu/alumni-photos. Special thanks to **Kelly Diersen** DMLC '95, temporary archives project manager, and Leah Matzke, web content manager, for setting up the pages.

Archives Going into Hibernation Status

We owe a debt of gratitude to **Lois Bode** DMLC '67, **Kelly Diersen** DMLC '95, and the volunteers who have done so much to help preserve and present the history of our blessed school. Many of the historical articles featured in *InFocus* magazine through the years were made possible due to our Archives team.



Lois Bode freely gave many hours each week as our volunteer archivist for several years. In 2016, Kelly Diersen was hired by the MLC Alumni Association as a temporary archives project manager. Later this year, Kelly's temporary funding will come to a close.



With the loss of these two key leaders and no funding available, the MLC Archives will go into a hibernation status as of December 15. To prevent loss or damage to items currently in the Archives, access will be prohibited. New items will still be welcomed and safely stored, but they will not be processed or researched. It is our goal that at some point in the future, an archivist will be hired to revive our efforts.

To learn more, visit mlc-wels.edu/history.

1967 – Northwestern College



For All the Saints

“Well done, good and faithful servants!”

In recent months, the Lord in his infinite wisdom has called several of our beloved retired professors home. Among these are **Theodore Hartwig**, **Howard Wessel**, and **Lyle Lange**. Collectively, they served an incredible 116 years here on the hill. We thank God for blessing so many of us through their faithful instruction and ask that he continue to provide us with faculty who follow their examples.

More about their lives and ministries can be found on the MLC website at mlc-wels.edu/history/professor-obituaries/



Professor Theodore Hartwig
1921-2017



Professor Howard Wessel
1933-2017



Professor Lyle Lange
1942-2016

Focus On Alumni

By Director of Alumni Relations **Steve Balza** DMLC '93

Welcome Back!

We're always thankful when alumni return to campus. Class reunions have been on the rise in recent years, and this year was no exception. Popular reunion activities include worship, meals, tours of the campus and community, and plenty of free time to catch up with one another.

Among those gathering here on the hill in recent months were the DMLC Classes of 1957, 1967, and 1972.

Is your class coming up on such a milestone? If so, the Alumni Relations Office is here to help. Contact Steve Balza (alumni@mlc-wels.edu or 507-217-1731) to get the ball rolling.



DMLC 1957



DMLC 1967



DMLC 1972



MLC Alumni Tours – Affordable, Enjoyable, and Educational

Forming new friendships. Making memories. Lifelong learning. Worshiping with like-minded believers. If these are a few of your favorite things, contact Steve Balza (alumni@mlc-wels.edu or 507-217-1731) to be added to the MLC Alumni Tour mailing list.

A record 110 travelers took to the road last summer on the ninth annual tour. Led by MLC professors **Steve Thiesfeldt** DMLC '74, **Greg Diersen** '96, and **Mike Otterstatter** WLS '94, the group

(pictured) saw some spectacular sites in the Bluegrass State of Kentucky, including the Creation Museum, the Ark Encounter, Cumberland Falls, and Mammoth Cave.

The 2018 tour to the Luther Lands, Austrian Alps, and Italy sold out on day one.

Tours are open to all WELS members. Learn more at mlc-wels.edu/alumni/tours.



HOMECOMING 2017!

Riffing on the film *Back to the Future*, this year's Homecoming theme, "Back to the Luther," spoke to the many Reformation 500 activities at MLC in 2017.

The students enjoyed a week of school spirit, sports, and silliness. Dodgeball, Powderpuff football, Powderbuff volleyball, and a **Selfie Competition (1)** were among student favorites. The weekend brought parents and alumni to campus. The talent show was a huge hit with **Garrett Buch** (*First German-Manitowoc WI*) and **Zach Satorius** (*Grace-Falls Church VA*) serving as emcees and even **some pros getting into the act (2)**. Saturday morning's **Sprinter Campus Fun Run (3)** had a record participation with over 300 running or walking the 1-mile trek through campus. The Family Fun Zone filled the gym with kids young and old as they **rode a mechanical bull named Papal (4)**, pinned the 95 Theses on the Castle Church doors, and hopped around in the Wartburg Castle Bounce House.

The **Knights football team (5)** emerged victorious with a 14-7 victory in front of a nice crowd, and many alumni enjoyed the annual social at the Kegel Klub. The week concluded on Sunday with a wonderful worship service in the Chapel of the Christ and a Civil War soccer match between MLC and our alumni now at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.



Your Gifts Make MLC a Great Value!

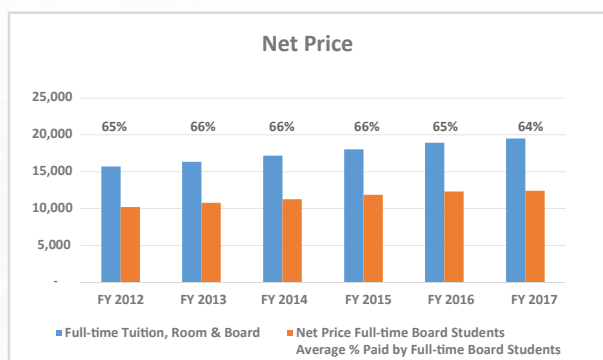
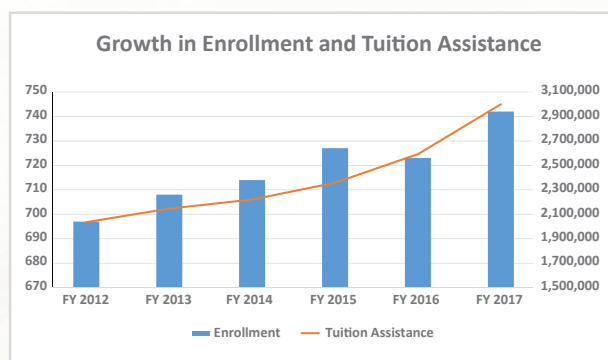
Although tuition, room and board at Martin Luther College is rising every year—as it is rising at all colleges across the country—the net price our MLC students pay has risen very little.

This is due to your generosity! Your gifts allow us to award need-based and merit-based grants and scholarships to our students—in addition to the financial aid they receive from the government and other sources.

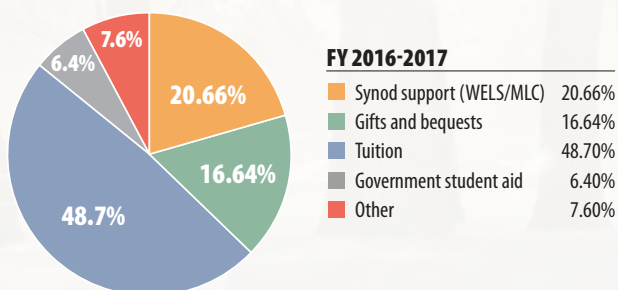
Because of your generosity, MLC has received national recognition again this year, being named a “Best Value” by several different organizations. **See these awards on the back page!**

Thank you for helping MLC provide a high-quality education at an affordable price. Thank you for partnering with us as we prepare these young men and women to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

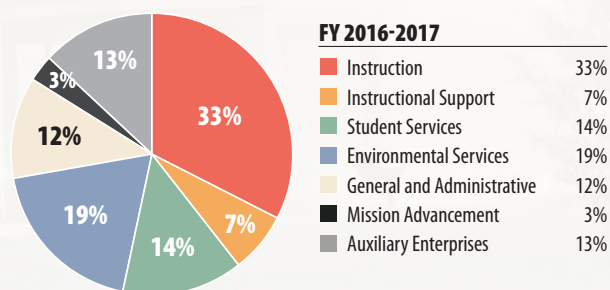
Thank you to Director of Finance Carla Hulke for these figures.



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



TOTAL BUDGET = \$20 MILLION

Thank You, Congregational Partners!

The Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP) has taken off in a big way! For the 2017-18 school year, 242 students from 146 congregations received grants from their congregations that were then matched by MLC. This resulted in more than \$400,000 in aid to our students!

We plan to expand the program to include MLC juniors in 2018-19 and seniors in 2019-20. If you'd like to support your congregation members studying at MLC, please apply! Applications for the 2018-19 school year will be accepted until June 1, 2018. mlc-wels.edu/go/cpgp

If you do not have any MLC students in your congregation, you can still participate. You can be the match! Your gift will be used to match other congregations' gifts to MLC for their members. mlc-wels.edu/donate





Crawdads for MLC Grads

Fifty members of Victory of the Lamb-Katy TX added a twist to their annual crawfish boil this year. In addition to the games, Cajun music, and tasty crawfish, they also took a freewill offering for MLC's Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP).

At their spring event, newly dubbed "Crawdads for MLC Grads," members gave \$1,617. Through CPGP, MLC matched \$1,000, and a generous donor matched the rest, raising Victory of the Lamb's gift to \$3,234.

Organizer Kevin Begnaud said: "As a congregation we have a lot of respect for ministerial education. This is one of the core values of our congregation. It's particularly true of the vicar program and how it encourages and develops young men for their roles as pastors. Additionally, we recognize the importance of MLC in fostering a sure foundation for pastors, called workers, and laypeople, a foundation that will lend itself to seeing them appropriately prepared for their (and His) work."

Several alumni attend the Texas church, including **Pastor Nathan Buege** WLS '02, **Amy Buege** '98, **Charles Buege** DMLC '69, **Ruth Buege** DMLC '71, and **Vicar Noah Willitz** '14. Several younger members have MLC in their sights.

Begnaud began having the crawfish boils at his house several years ago "because it was an opportunity to have many church and non-church friends hang out together." When the annual event was moved to the church, Begnaud and several others continued to act as host, donating time and food, so that all proceeds could go to the church. This is the first year they've donated the members' donations to MLC.

As for the crawdads themselves, Begnaud says he's continuing a family tradition of "providing a repast of high quality and spiciness." What he throws in the pot includes crawfish, sausage, corn on the cob, red potatoes, yellow onion, garlic cloves, mushrooms, and—we're quite sure—secret ingredients he refuses to reveal.

"I believe dedicating this gift to MLC was a great idea," he concludes, "and I look forward to continuing such efforts well into the future, until they bury me with my pot!"



FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Valerie Bovee (financial aid operations assistant) completed the Direct Loan Credential through the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Professor James Carlovsky '02 (math and technology) presented "What Can I Reasonably Do with Technology?" at the Lutheran College Conference at MLC in August. He presented a workshop on instructional technology to Minnesota Valley LHS teachers in October, and he presented "iPads in the Classroom" and "Using the Basics of Operations with Understanding" at Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference in October.

Professor Paul Grubbs '01 (English) completed a Master of Arts in English Literature at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in August. He also presented "Writing Across the Content Areas," a workshop for elementary and secondary teachers, at Minnesota Valley LHS in August.

Professors Emeritus Earl Heidtke DMLC '73 and **John Paulsen** explained the science behind an eclipse to a crowd of about 1000 people gathered at Nebraska LHS on August 21. The school's location placed it in the path of totality.

Professor Grace Hennig DMLC '89 (music) received commissions to write hymn tunes for the church anniversaries at Emanuel-New London WI (125th) and St. Paul-Appleton WI (150th). She also collaborated with Dr. Ann Vogel of New Ulm and New Ulm composer-in-residence Peter Michael von der Nahmer to write "Goosetown Tales," a musical theater piece that was presented at New Ulm's State Street Theater in August.

JoElyn Krohn (financial literacy coordinator) completed the Direct Loan Credential through the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Professor Jon Laabs '08 (music) appeared as a baritone soloist with the Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee at the Basilica of St. Josaphat in October, performing in Richard Hynson's *Evensong* and Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Mass in g minor*.

Professor Doug Lange WLS '82 (physical education) taught "The Exilic History of Israel and Judah" to 28 students at the Maor Theological Seminary in Bishoftu, Ethiopia, in July. The Lutheran Church of Ethiopia is an associate member of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference. *Pictured: Rev. Dr. Kebede Yigezu, leader of the Ethiopian church body; Yilak Girma*

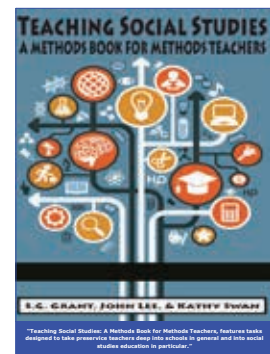


Asfaw, a seminarian who graduated Reformation Day and was called to Adama, a city in central Ethiopia; and Professor Doug Lange.

Robert Martens '09 (web master/technician) is serving as an adjunct faculty member at The College of St. Scholastica; he is teaching Computer Science Principles, an online undergraduate course.

Dr. John Meyer DMLC '87 (director of graduate studies & continuing education) was appointed a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission, in which capacity he will serve on an accreditation review team for other colleges and universities. He joins **Dr. David Wendler**, professor emeritus, who also serves as a peer reviewer.

Dr. Kari Muentz '99 (social sciences) wrote chapters for two social studies pedagogy textbooks: *Anticipating Social Studies Content* and *Teaching Social Studies: A Methods Book for Methods Teachers* (IAP Publishing). She also gave two presentations at the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) National Convention in San Francisco in November: "How Prepared Are Our



Berthold Treiber
NWC 1953
Unionville MI



Judith Meyer
DMLC 1963
Kasota MN



Daniel Laitinen
MLC 2008
New Ulm MN



Edward Krause
DMLC 1963
New London WI

Teacher Candidates to Work with Students with Disabilities?" and "Critical Conversations in K-12 Social Studies Teacher Education: Politics, Current Events, and Diversity."

Professor Thomas Nass WLS '82 (Hebrew) was elected vice president of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) at its triennial convention in Grimma, Germany, in July.

Professor Emeritus John Nolte PhD DMLC '68 was invited to serve as guest organist for the 150th anniversary of St. John-Waterloo WI in September.

Dr. Mark Paustian WLS '88 (Hebrew, English) preached for the opening service of the Lutheran College Conference at MLC in August. He participated in a discussion on homiletics with Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) faculty, and then led a retreat of WLS professors and wives on the book of Ruth in August. Finally, he led a men's retreat on "Uniquely Christian Communication" in Crosslake MN in September.

Professor Jonathan Schaefer '02 (New Teacher Induction director) was invited by the US Department of Education to participate in the "Convening on Systems of Support for Excellent Teaching" in Washington DC in July. The seminar focused on retention and development of teachers.

Professor John Schmidt WLS '74 (Greek, theology) taught a New Testament Greek review at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary over the summer based on the gospel and epistle readings for the upcoming Advent and Lent seasons.

Professor Emeritus Wayne Wagner PhD DMLC '72 taught a music appreciation class for the New Ulm CASTLE Lifelong Learning Institute in conjunction with the class attendance at a Minnesota Orchestra concert. MLC students were also invited to this intergenerational event in November.

Dr. Jeff Wiechman DMLC '92 (VP for academics) presented "Assessment in Education" to the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary faculty in August and "Supervision of Instruction" at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference in October and also at a joint teachers' conference of the Dakota/Montana and Nebraska Districts in Rapid City SD in October.

President Mark Zarling WLS '80 presented the keynote address "Our Great Heritage: The Awesome Blessing of Christian Schools" at the Minnesota District Teachers' Conference in October.

Retired in Summer 2017



Dr. Alan Spurgin has served MLC as an education professor and special education consultant since 1995. He also served at DMLC as an education professor and a student teacher supervisor (1992-1995). Prior to his service on campus, he was principal and K-8 teacher at St. Peter-Balaton WI (1987-1992), grade 5-6 teacher, athletic director, and technology director at Good Shepherd-West Allis WI (1974-1987), and grade 7 teacher, coach, and youth director at St. John-Watertown WI (1971-1974).

Al's colleague Professor Daryl Hanneman speaks for all Dr. Spurgin's students and colleagues in this tribute: "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood." Many hundreds of MLC students have heard that statement from Dr. Spurgin in the classes he taught. Not only have students been the recipients of Dr. Spurgin's wise instruction and Christian love and support, but everyone on campus has been influenced in some way by knowing him. Kind words, smiles, and "God bless you" flow naturally and frequently from our professor, colleague, and friend.

In their home, Dr. and Mrs. Spurgin cared for 127 foster children. Numbers 125, 126, and 127 share their home now. The deep commitment to serving others extends beyond the MLC campus for Dr. Spurgin. Only God knows the difference he has made in the many lives he has touched.

Looking out the window of Old Main and not seeing Dr. Spurgin's blue truck and not hearing the squeak of his briefcase-on-wheels as he hurries down the hall to class will take some getting used to. But we can say thankfully, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

We pray that God will provide Dr. Spurgin with beautiful days of retirement like the beautiful days he wished for his many MLC students.

Dr. Spurgin is retiring from full-time service due to lingering health issues. He will continue to serve as an instructor in our graduate program. He and his wife, Gerane, will remain in New Ulm.



Adam Horneber
NWC 1978
Bancroft MI



Elizabeth Gumm
MLC 2008
Loves Park IL



Mentor Kujath
NWC 1945
Milwaukee WI



Kristie Wiersma
DMLC 1983
Castlewood SD

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Welcome, New Faculty Members



Catherine Biedenbender

DMLC '85

ECLC lead teacher

Cathy grew up in New Ulm MN, where she attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School. She graduated from Martin Luther Preparatory School in 1981 and Dr. Martin Luther College in 1985. Her first assignment was to St. Stephen's Lutheran School in Adrian MI. She has also taught at Trusting Hearts Preschool in Manitowoc WI, the MLC Early Childhood Learning Center in New Ulm MN, and Sienna Lutheran Academy in Missouri City TX. She is now serving as lead toddler teacher at the MLC Early Childhood Learning Center. Cathy is married to David Biedenbender. They have four daughters and two sons-in-law.

education licensure. Her first position was at New Ulm High School, where she taught math and coached Knowledge Bowl and Speech. In 2014 she accepted a call to St. Croix LHS, where she taught math, STEM, and Latin and coached Math League. Rae earned a master's degree in math education from Western Governors University in 2015.



Timothy Grundmeier '07

Professor of history

Tim was born, baptized, and raised in Houston TX, where he attended Christ the Lord Lutheran Church and School. From 1997 to 2000, his family lived in Stavanger, Norway, where he was homeschooled and confirmed at *St. Lukas Evangelisk-Lutherske Forsamling*. He graduated from Luther Preparatory School in 2003 and Martin Luther College in 2007. For his pastoral training, he attended Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary and served as vicar at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Okauchee WI. He earned a master's degree in history from Minnesota State University-Mankato and is in the process of completing a doctorate in history from Baylor University in Waco TX. Tim and his wife, Erika (nee Schreiner), have three children: Emma (6), Ryan (3), and Haddie (1).



Rachel Feld '06

Director of academic computing

Rachel grew up in Aurora CO, where she attended Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School. She graduated from Luther Preparatory School in 2001 and Martin Luther College in 2006. She was assigned to Bethany Lutheran School in Kenosha WI, where she taught grades 1-2 and served as organist for 11 years. In 2015 she graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran College with a master's degree in education focusing on instructional technology. She is currently attending Concordia University-Chicago and hopes to graduate in 2020 with a doctorate in instructional technology leadership.



Galen Holzhrueter '15

Admissions counselor

Galen lives in Mankato MN, where he has been a lifelong member of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church. He graduated from Minnesota Valley LHS in 2010 and Martin Luther College in 2015 with a B.S. in elementary education. He taught grades 3-4 for one year at Risen Savior Lutheran School in Mankato and served one year as a part-time admissions counselor at MLC. During those two years, Galen earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Minnesota State University-Mankato.



Rachel Fredrich

Professor of mathematics

Rae was born in Watertown WI to Prof. and Mrs. Joel (Jan) Fredrich. She attended grade school at St. Mark's, Watertown, and St. Paul's, New Ulm. She graduated as valedictorian of Minnesota Valley LHS in 2005 and was named a National Merit Scholar. In 2009 she graduated from the University of Minnesota-Morris with a B.A. in mathematics and secondary



Brian Kasten
MLC 1998
Benton Harbor MI



Lori Kieselhorst
DMLC 1988
Cedarburg WI



Nathanael Scharf
MLC 2003
West Allis WI



Cynthia Tessmer
DMLC 1973
Rogers MN



Jonathan Laabs '08
Professor of music

Jonathan graduated from Martin Luther College in 2008 and was assigned to Kettle Moraine LHS, where he served until 2013 directing the choirs, teaching music theory and physical education, and coaching track and field. Since then, he has been

directing the choirs at Trinity in Waukesha WI, teaching as an adjunct voice instructor at Falls Baptist College of Ministry in Menomonee Falls WI, and singing professionally with Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee. He is also the artistic director of Canticum Novum: A WELS Chamber Choir. Recently, he completed a Master of Music in choral conducting from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Jon and his wife, Erin, who will serve as Forum advisor, have two daughters: Genevieve and Mariah.



Kari Muentel '99
Professor of social sciences

Kari grew up in Milwaukee WI as a member of St. Mark's in Brown Deer. She graduated from Wisconsin LHS in 1987. After several years attending UW-Oshkosh and UW-Milwaukee and working full-time, in 1995 she enrolled at Martin Luther College.

After graduating, she taught social studies, coached, and directed theater productions at Luther Preparatory School and later at Rocky Mountain LHS. After earning a master's degree in learning, teaching, and curriculum from the University of Missouri in 2013, Kari resigned her call and moved to Columbia MO to work full-time on her doctorate. While fulfilling her graduate studies, she taught courses at Mizzou's College of Education and at Ohio State-Lima. In May 2017 she received a doctoral degree in learning, teaching, and curriculum with an emphasis in social studies education.



Angela Scharf '99
Director of women's services

Angie grew up with her eight sisters and five brothers in West Allis WI, where they attended Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School. She graduated from Northwestern Preparatory School in 1995 and from Martin Luther College in 1999.

After graduating, she taught English, coached, and directed plays at Luther Preparatory School and then at Evergreen LHS. The 2007-2008 school year was spent in Plzen, Czech Republic, where she taught at Martin Luther School. Since then, Angie has enjoyed various occupations that enabled her to travel and see God's beautiful creation while coming into contact with many who needed to know their Savior's love.



Paul Spaude WLS '17
Instructor, dorm supervisor

Paul was born to Reverend Michael Spaude and his wife, Rachel, on April 10, 1991. He grew up in Antigo WI, where he went through the public school system, graduating from high school in 2009. Following his graduation from MLC in 2013, he attended

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. During his 2015-2016 seminary school year, he served as vicar at Sure Foundation Lutheran Church in Woodside NY. Paul has four siblings: Katie Koelpin, Laura Stuebs, David Spaude, and Dan Spaude.



Tyson Zarnstorff '05
Professor of mathematics

Tyson grew up in Anchorage AK as a member of Faith Lutheran Church. His parents, Thomas and Cindy, have taught at Faith for many years. Tyson graduated from Evergreen LHS in 2000 and Martin Luther College in 2005. He was assigned to Grace

Lutheran Church in Lowell AR, where he taught grades 3-5 and departmentalized math. In 2008 he earned a master's degree in mathematics education from Western Governors University. In 2013 he accepted a call to Divine Savior Academy in Doral FL. There he taught middle school math and science for three years and high school math for one year. Tyson and his wife, Rachel, are blessed with four daughters: Natasha (17), Nicole (16), Noelle (5), and Nadia (4).



David Hussman
NWC 1983
Crete IL



Judith Zink
DMLC 1963
Kewaunee WI



Glenn Rosenbaum
NWC 1988
Saginaw MI



Carrie Behnken
MLC 2008
Aberdeen SD

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