

IN FOCUS

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

YEAR IN REVIEW 2016-2017



In This Issue...

2016-2017 Highlights

MLC and WLS Graduates Assigned
to Your District

New Strategic Plan for 2017-2023

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Take Courage



By MLC President **Mark Zarling** WLS '80

Adapted from the 2017 Commencement Sermon

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, and especially you, the 2017 graduates of MLC,

As you step forward to carry Jesus' name on your lips and in your lives, the words you chose will bring you courage: *I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world* (John 16:33).

Courage is needed, for the task is impossible without the courage Christ provides. It is courage for the commission. Not just a commission, but the Great Commission, a commission to go with the love of Christ to those lost. This is the only commission ever given that has an eternal and unending impact for each and every soul you meet.

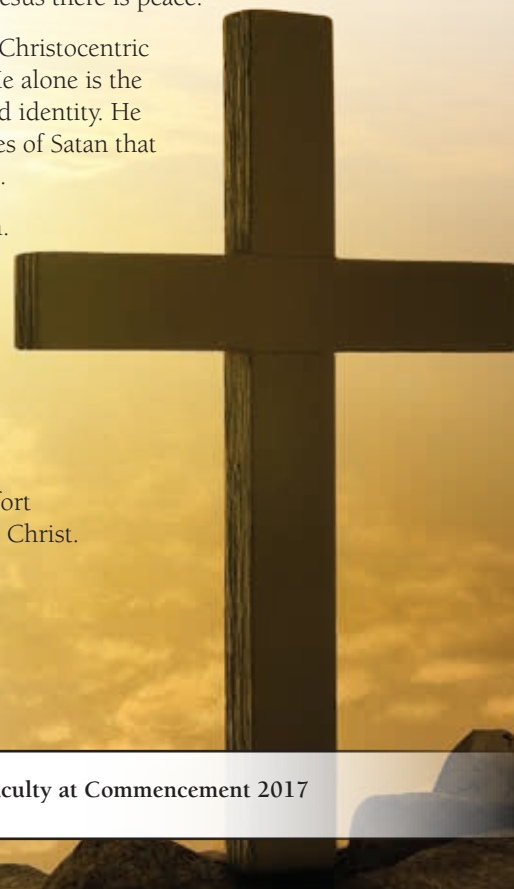
It will not be easy. You will face big changes in the days ahead. You will leave close Christian friends. You will enter a world of hostility that brings trouble to anyone who calls Christ Savior and Lord. You will leave also knowing the weakness within you. You've already experienced days in your pilgrimage when you betrayed your Savior with words or thoughts or actions that showed the greed of Judas or the panic of Peter.

But take courage. You have received the Spirit through water and Word. You have received the body and blood of Jesus through bread and wine. You have the Spirit's indwelling as he carries the promises of Jesus in your heart. In Jesus there is peace.

Take courage. You go to teach the biblical and Christocentric worldview. Jesus alone is the Way to heaven. He alone is the Life for souls seeking purpose and meaning and identity. He alone is the Truth that overcomes the hellish lies of Satan that now percolate throughout society's worldviews.

Take courage. You know where you come from. You know why you're here. You know where sin and suffering come from. You know the only answer to sin and suffering and death. You know the purpose of life and the ultimate goal of our existence. You know that the font is the historical reality of the cross in your life and the eternal destiny of new life in Christ.

Take courage. You go to teach others that comfort and cheer and confidence that is found only in Christ. And in so doing, you bring courage for the commission to yet another generation.



On our cover: The MLC faculty at Commencement 2017

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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.

Thanking the Lord of the Church for 145 MLC Graduates

We congratulate the 127 undergraduate students and 18 graduate students who earned their degrees at Commencement on May 13, 2017. **Professor Paul Koelpin** presided at the Commencement Service; **President Mark Zarling** preached (see page 2); and **VP for Academics Jeff Wiechman** assisted with the diploma distribution.

In the Saturday afternoon Call Service, 117 teacher candidates (including some from previous years) were assigned to every level, from preschool to high school. (See pages 10-13.)

Note that more than 40 requests for teachers remain unfilled.

Graduation by the Numbers:

145	Total graduates
18	Master of Science-Education
29	Bachelor of Arts (preseminary)
89	Bachelor of Science-Education
5	Bachelor of Science
4	Seminary Certification



Master of Science in Education Degrees Granted

Congratulations to our 18 Master of Science in Education graduates. Seventeen were able to attend the commencement ceremony, traveling from as far away as Florida, Arizona, and Indonesia. **Front: Seth Zimmermann '99** (Riverview-Appleton WI), **Kate Krieger '10**, **David Uhlhorn '99** (Manitowoc LHS), **Casey De Frain '08** (St. Mark-Watertown WI), **Timothy Payne '08** (St. John-Newburg WI), **Jill Wolf '11** (St. John-Jefferson WI), **Matthew Oppermann '07** (Bay Pines-Seminole FL), and **Jeff Dorn DMLC '86** (Shoreland LHS). **Back: Allen Labitzky**, **Philip Kurbis '09** (Divine Savior Academy-Doral FL), **William Hinz '04** (St. Paul-Fort Atkinson WI), **Landon Zacharyasz '11** (Mount Olive-Appleton WI), **Kenneth Lehman DMLC '84** (First-La Crosse WI), **Sharon Mundt DMLC '87** (Fox Valley LHS), **Matthew Grow '99** (Shoreland LHS), **Coral Cady DMLC '85** (Kingdom Workers-Southeast Asia), and **Anne Starr '12**. Graduating in absentia: **Mollie Dorn '12** (Mt. Calvary-Redding CA).

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.



Laury Schumacher
DMLC 1987
Brookfield WI



Steven Wagenknecht
NWC 1992
North Richland Hills TX



2017 MLC Senior Award Winners

(back) **Eric Uher** (Mt. Calvary-Waukesha WI)
Aaron Markgraf (Beautiful Savior-Cincinnati)
Alec Bergmann (Peace-Hartford WI)
Luke Rothe (St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI)
Isaac Hayes (Emmanuel-Tempe AZ)

(front) **Magdalena Petermann** (St. Paul-Saginaw MI)
Emily Neeb (Peace-Queen Creek AZ)
Leah Nass (St. Paul-Howards Grove WI)

(not pictured) **Tyler Zeamer** (Zion-Greenleaf WI)

MLC Via Veritas Vita Award
 UMAC Scholar-Athlete Award
 Student Body President Recognition
 Jerome Kruse Knight Award for Athletic Achievement
 MLC Service Award/Brooks Scholarship
 MLC Fine Arts Award
 MLC Leading Education Scholar/UMAC Scholar-Athlete Award
 Jerome Kruse Knight Award for Athletic Achievement
 MLC Leading Preseminary Scholar

Governing Board Digest

By Steve Thiesfeldt DMLC '74

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 2020.



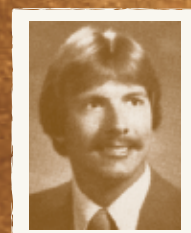
Bethann Greco
DMLC 1992
Omaha NE



Alan Uher
DMLC 1987
Caledonia WI



Lisa Nickle
MLC 2012
Clearwater FL



Paul Griepentrog
DMLC 1982
De Pere WI



2017 NWC Alumni Society President Grant Winners

(back) **Matthew Thiel** (Christ-Oakley MI)
Evan Arrowsmith (Trinity-Bay City MI)
Carl Boeder (St. John-New Ulm MN)
Grant Hagen (Immanuel-Greenville WI)
 (front) **Samuel Helwig** (Crown of Life-Hubertus WI)
Ethan Schultz (Trinity-Waukesha WI)
Alex Lindemann (St. John-Lewiston MN)
Nathan Savage (Grace-Glendale AZ)
Caleb King (St. John-Lomira WI)
Eric Zabell (St. Paul-Green Bay WI)

August F. Ernst Grant for Confessional Languages (Latin & German)
 Robert J. Voss Grant for Student Government
 Lewis O. Thompson Grant for Worship and Music
 Adam Martin Grant for Living Languages (Spanish)
 August F. Ernst Grant for Confessional Languages (Latin)
 Carleton Toppe Grant for GPA and Religion
 John A. Braun Grant for Leadership
 John A. Braun Grant for English
 Robert J. Voss Grant for Student Life
 E.E. Kowalke Grant for Biblical Languages

February 2017

- **Capital Campaign:** Resolved to seek support of the Synodical Council and Conference of Presidents to move forward with a comprehensive synod-wide capital campaign to fund building projects on the MLC campus, student assistance, and recruitment efforts.
- **Strategic Plan:** Adopted "Equipped to Do God's Will: A Strategic Plan for MLC" as a guide for the college over the next six years. (Please see pages 15-26.)
- **Foundation Distribution:** Ratified the distribution of \$184,304 from 2016 proceeds of the Romberg Foundation (\$25,000 to St. John-Sleepy Eye MN; \$39,826 to Minnesota Valley LHS; and \$119,478 to MLC for student assistance).

Thank You for Your Service

Our gratitude to departing board members **Duane Schmeichel** WLS '91 and **Steven Vasold** '00. Both men have accepted calls to serve in other districts, Pastor Schmeichel to Lamb of God-Madison AL and Teacher Vasold to Luther Prep. Their terms will be completed by **Jonathan Brohn** WLS '96, pastor at Salem-Stillwater MN, and **Andrew Van Weele** '04, principal at Lord of Life-Friendswood TX.



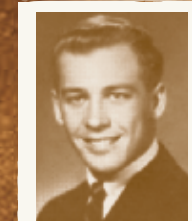
Kelly Pochop
NWC 1982
Aberdeen SD



Kristin Mantey
MLC 2007
Port Orchard WA



Larry Seafert
NWC 1992
Bay City MI



Wayne Schneider
NWC 1962
Two Rivers WI

Music Highlights 2016-2017



Martin Luther College Choir toured Texas this year, the last tour for **Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer**, who is retiring this summer. Pictured: College Choir at Holy Word-Austin; Dr. Moldenhauer.



Christmas at MLC 2017



Christmas Organ Recital



Allen Zahn
NWC 1967
Coleman WI



Dave Reinemann
MLC 1997
Howards Grove WI



Beth Bunkowske
DMLC 1977
Norfolk NE



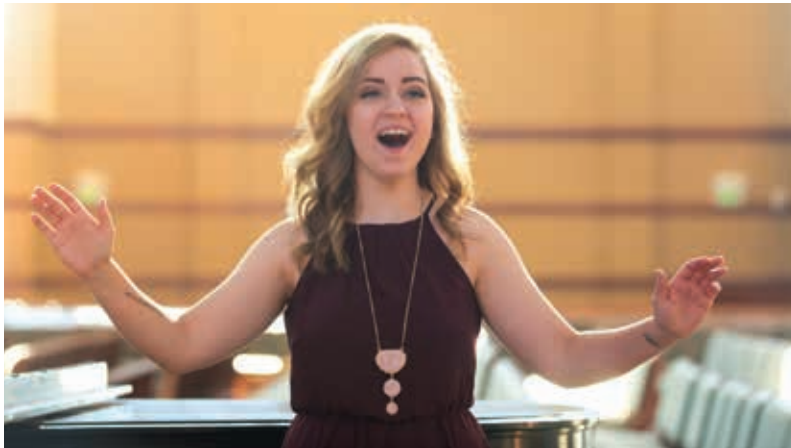
Victor Theiste
NWC 1952
Minneapolis MN



2017 NATIONAL CONFERENCE on Worship Music & the Arts



MLC Wind Symphony toured Wisconsin, Michigan, and Canada in May this year. Instructor **Erin Meissner** (*far right*) conducted.



Music Recitalists 2016-2017

Caitlyn Eisner (*St. Matthew-Port Washington WI, pictured*) – voice

Alana Mittelstadt (*Christ-North St. Paul MN*) &
Hannah Cook (*Christ-West Salem WI*) – piano

Margaret Frey (*St. John-Newburg WI*) &
Rachel Winter (*Immanuel-Manitowoc WI*) – voice & oboe

Lucas Krogmann (*St. Paul-Ixonia WI*) – organ

Joshua Severeid (*Holy Trinity-Des Moines WA*) – voice & saxophone

MLC faculty and staff members were pleased to serve at the June conference held at Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Instructor Bethel Balge (piano) performed two recitals along with Lydia Metzger, Betsy Husby, and Rachel Gries.

Laurie Gauger DMLC '87 (writer/editor) presented "Hymn Writing for Poets and Non-Poets." She was also commissioned to write a hymn text; **Mark Knickelbein '08**, Concordia Publishing House editor of music/worship, wrote the hymn harmonizations.

Professor Grace Hennig DMLC '89 (music), along with **Pastor Dan Witte WLS '92**, presented "Different Styles of Psalmody for the New Hymnal."

Professor Craig Hirschmann DMLC '84 (music) conducted handbells at the "Ascension of Our Lord" worship service and also served as organist at the "Best of Brass and Organ" recital.

Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer DMLC '71 (music), along with **Dale Witte DMLC '90**, directed the 124-voice Festival Choir. Moldenhauer also gave a Choral Conducting Master Class.

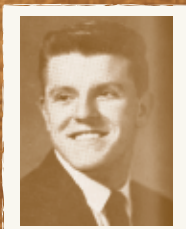
Dr. Mark Paustian WLS '88 (English/Hebrew) preached at the "Service of Confession and Absolution" and also presented two sectionals: "Communicating Christ in the 21st Century" and "Why I Love Hymns."

Professor David Scharf WLS '05 (theology) preached at the "Ascension of Our Lord" service.

Professor Adrian Smith '03 (music) served on the Conference Steering Committee and presented the sectional "Sing With Your Whole Self."



Sarah Seelow
MLC 2007
Port Huron MI



Walter Oelhafen
NWC 1962
Montello WI



Johanna Lillo
DMLC 1992
Anchorage AK



Joel Free
MLC 2007
Rapid City SD

Sports Highlights 2016-2017

BASEBALL

Jason Lindemann (Zion-Egg Harbor WI) set a new MLC baseball record with eight career home runs. The catcher tied the single-season record with five home runs during his junior campaign and entered his senior season one shy of the previous record of seven held by three players. He tied the record against UW-Superior on April 8 and then broke the mark against North Central on April 20. Lindemann also ranks among career leaders in program history in doubles and walks.



TRACK & FIELD



First-years **Melissa Neumann** (Grace-Wausau WI) and **Benjamin Bitter** (St. John-Milwaukee) had record-breaking debut seasons on the track and field teams for MLC. Neumann was responsible for 22 points at the UMAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships, thanks to top-five finishes in the Discus Throw (first), Shot Put (second), and Hammer Throw (fifth). She set new MLC records in all three events at the meet.

Bitter was among the top point-scorers on the track, thanks to top-two finishes in the 3000 Meter Steeplechase (first) and 1500 Meters (second). Already holding the MLC record in the Steeplechase, Bitter added a UMAC record at the event. He also was part of the Knights' 4x400 Meter Relay team that finished second.

BASKETBALL

Two seniors notched new records during the basketball season. **Luke Rothe** (St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI) set a new MLC men's basketball record with 377 career assists, while **Mariah Schoof** (St. Paul-New Ulm MN) set a new mark in women's basketball with 166 career three-point field goals.



Alfred Gawel
NWC 1987
Wilmington DE



Jennifer Perry
MLC 1997
Chesaning MI



Rodney Bollinger
DMLC 1977
Zeeland ND



Michelle Hintz
MLC 2012
Franklin TN



First Team All-UMAC

Ben Bitter (*St. John-Milwaukee*) – cross country, track & field
Nathan Graumann (*Bethany-Fort Atkinson WI*) – soccer
Jenna Maurer (*Good Shepherd-South Attleboro MA*) – soccer
Kira Grev (*Divinity-St. Paul*) – volleyball
Jade St. Germaine (*St. Mark-Watertown WI*) – volleyball
Martin Loescher (*David's Star-Jackson WI*) – track & field
Melissa Neumann (*Grace-Wausau WI*) – track & field
Charlotte Huebner (*Peace-Sun Prairie WI*) – track & field
Josh Koelpin (*St. John-New Ulm MN*) – tennis
Anna Hemmelman (*Trinity-Goodview MN*) – tennis
Rachel Riediger (*Christ-West Salem WI*) – tennis

Academic All-Conference

MLC also ranked #1 in team GPA in nine sports: women's soccer (3.76), volleyball (3.71), football (3.16), men's soccer (3.15), women's basketball (3.57), baseball (3.08), softball (3.69), women's tennis (3.76), and men's tennis (3.36).



Professor Paul Koelpin

**UMAC Men's Soccer
Coach of the Year**

Professor Emeritus Gary Dallmann *Inducted Into USCAA Hall of Fame*



Professor Emeritus Gary Dallmann
DMLC '64, longtime DMLC coach and athletic director, was inducted into the United States Collegiate Athletics Association (USCAA) Hall of Fame on June 11. This is the inaugural Hall of Fame class for the USCAA, and Dallmann's contributions to the institution made him an important member of the ten-person class.

From 1985 to 1995, Dallmann served as commissioner of the National Small College Athletic Association (NSCAA), previously known as the National Little College Athletic Association (NLCAA), now called the USCAA. His duties included writing the organization's constitution, keeping the record books, presiding over national tournaments, and seeking new members.

The honor came unexpectedly for Dallmann. "It's a complete surprise," he said. "It never entered my mind that an award like this would come, but I'm very grateful for the honor."

Dallmann's coaching career on our campus spanned 44 years, 1964 to 2008, and he served 23 years (1972-95) as DMLC athletic director. He coached soccer, basketball, tennis, golf, and baseball. While attending national tournaments as NSCAA commissioner, Dallmann commented that he saw little difference between the national tournaments of the NSCAA and the NCAA: "The fans cheered just as loud. The players gave the same effort and jumped just as high."

The USCAA isn't the only place grateful for Dallmann's contributions to collegiate athletics. MLC Athletic Director Jim Unke worked with Dallmann from 1997 to 2008 and is very happy to see him recognized for his career. "We're thrilled for Gary to receive this honor," Unke said. "This is something that is very appropriate, considering his lifetime of service to collegiate athletics not only on our campus, but across the country."

The banquet to honor Dallmann and the other members of his Hall of Fame class was held in Norfolk, Virginia, at the USCAA National Convention. Dallmann attended the banquet with his son, Brett Dallmann.



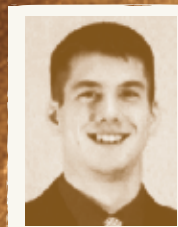
**Paul
Zarling**
MLC 1997
Sterling VA



**Linda
Kipfmiller**
DMLC 1982
Bay City MI



**Mark
Hillmer**
NWC 1957
North Branch MI



**Geoffrey
Cortright**
MLC 2002
Van Nuys CA

MLC AND WLS GRADUATES

ARIZONA-CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Brock Groth (Hastings MN) to **St. Mark-Citrus Heights CA**: associate pastor

Eric Hahn (New Ulm MN) to **California LHS**: dorm supervisor, algebra, computers, PE (reassigned for third year)

Louisa Kahrs (Clatonia NE) to **Redeemer-Tucson AZ**: 4K, gr 2

Kyle Melso (Brookfield WI) to **California LHS**: dorm supervisor, Spanish, coaching (one-year assignment)

Leah Nass (Manitowoc WI) to **California LHS**: dorm supervisor, social studies (one-year assignment)

Annette Scharf (Hot Springs Village AR) to **Peridot/Our Savior-Peridot AZ**: gr 2

Joshua Severeid (Federal Way WA) to **California LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor (one-year assignment)

Erin Stob (Watertown WI) to **Beautiful Savior-Las Vegas**: ECE director apprentice (assignment made permanent)

Courtney Teeples (Tampa FL) to **Peridot/Our Savior-Peridot AZ**: ECE, kindergarten

Sara Willems (Mount Pleasant WI) to **California LHS**: dorm supervisor, science (one-year assignment)

Luke Zeamer (De Pere WI) to **Peridot/Our Savior-Peridot AZ**: gr 4-5, athletic director

Luther Zuberbier (Fond du Lac WI) to **Deer Valley-Phoenix**: pastor

DAKOTA-MONTANA DISTRICT

Matthew Behm (Beaver Dam WI) to **Trinity-Aberdeen SD**: gr 6-8, athletics

Santiago Botero (Bogotá, Colombia) to **Great Plains LHS**: dorm supervisor, science (reassigned for second year)

Abigail Fischer (Watertown WI) to **St. Paul-Rapid City SD**: kindergarten (one-year assignment)

Elizabeth Knox (Thiensville WI) to **Living Savior-Missoula MT**: ECE lead teacher (one-year assignment)

Gina Radue (Waukesha WI) to **Great Plains LHS**: dorm supervisor, math, science (one-year assignment)

Joshua Schultz (Juneau WI) to **Mountain View-Great Falls MT**: pastor

John Schwartz (Watertown WI) to **Redeemer-Pierre SD**: pastor

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Craig Birsching (Tacoma WA) to **St. John-Westland MI**: pastor

Ross Chartrand (Manassas VA) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Brooke DeAnda (Janesville WI) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: Spanish (one-year assignment)

Nathan Guhl (Jackson WI) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: chemistry, physics (one-year assignment)

Charlotte Huebner (Sun Prairie WI) to **Divine Grace-Lake Orion MI**: gr 1-4, organ

Elizabeth Jeske (Milwaukee) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Ryan Lemke (Elkhorn WI) to **Michigan LHS**: dorm supervisor, science (reassigned for third year)

Aaron Luedtke (Troutville VA) to **St. John-Pigeon MI**: all grades (reassigned for third year)

Alyssa Maertz (Watertown SD) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Lauren Maertz (Watertown SD) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: science (reassigned for third year)

Megan Rabbers (Stevensville MI) to **Bethany-Saginaw MI**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Caleb Schmiede (Madison WI) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: recruiter (reassigned for one year)

Aaron Schwartz (La Crosse WI) to **Peace-Livonia MI**: gr 7-8, principal apprentice (one-year assignment)

Magdalen Schwartz (La Crosse WI) to **Peace-Livonia MI**: kindergarten, organ (one-year assignment)

Joseph Shiery (San Marcos CA) to **St. John-Bay City MI**: gr 3-4, organ

Justin Shrum (Clovis CA) to **St. John-Riga MI**: pastor

Kathryn Thooft (Racine WI) to **St. John-Hemlock MI**: gr K-4 (assignment made permanent)

Wesley Towne (Bay City MI) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Hannah Zabel (Fond du Lac WI) to **Michigan LHS**: dorm supervisor, social studies (reassigned for second year)

MINNESOTA DISTRICT

Todd Brassow (Saginaw MI) to **St. John-Redwood Falls MN**: gr 7-8, athletic director

Grey Davis (Lake Mills WI) to **St. Croix LHS**: dorm supervisor, social studies (reassigned for second year)

Allison Dorn (Crete IL) to **The Shepherd's Little Lambs Preschool-Duluth MN**: ECE



Ardon Wood
NWC 1947
Tigerton WI



Elizabeth Herlich
MLC 2002
Manito IL



Kevin Neuman
DMLC 1992
Fort Wayne IN



Arvid Gullerud
NWC 1942
Brookings SD

Assigned to Your District

Jason Dutcher (Wood Lake MN) to **St. John-Lake City MN**: gr 1-2 (one-year assignment)

Kali Gross (Oconomowoc WI) to **Samuel-Marshall MN**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Paul Habermann (Manitowoc WI) to **Holy Trinity-New Hope MN**: gr 7-8, athletic director

Justin Heise (Green Bay WI) to **St. Peter-St. Peter MN**: associate pastor

Olivia Knudsen (Arcadia WI) to **Prairie-Gibbon MN**: gr 1-2, music

Karlie Kohlmeier (Manitowoc WI) to **The Shepherd's Lambs Childcare Center-New Hope MN**: ECE teacher, assistant director (one-year assignment)

Kristoffer Kuschel (Mukwonago WI) to **St. Paul-New Ulm MN**: youth and family staff minister

Garrett Schoch (Merrill WI) to **St. Croix LHS**: dorm supervisor, math (reassigned for third year)

Jacob Schram (Merrill WI) to **Salem-Stillwater MN**: associate pastor

Caitlin Smith (Westland MI) to **St. John-Red Wing MN**: preschool, kindergarten (one-year assignment)

Paul Spaude (Antigo WI) to **Martin Luther College**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Nathan Wordell (Kenosha WI) to **Martin Luther College**: tutor (reassigned for one year)

NEBRASKA DISTRICT

Jacob Jenswold (Powell OH) to **Rock of Ages-Kansas City MO**: pastor

Miranda Loduha (Jackson WI) to **Hope-Manhattan KS**: ECE assistant director

Miranda Maasz (Sleepy Eye MN) to **Nebraska LHS**: dorm supervisor, coaching (reassigned for third year)

Benjamin Olsen (Spooner WI) to **Nebraska LHS**: dorm supervisor, Spanish (one-year assignment)

Matthew Scharf (West Allis WI) to **Hope-Manhattan KS**: pastor (call made permanent)

Sarah Schulte (La Valle WI) to **Nebraska LHS**: dorm supervisor (one-year assignment)

Austin Ziche (Belleville WI) to **Immanuel-Hadar NE**: pastor

Jacob Ziel (Ixonia WI) to **Nebraska LHS**: dorm supervisor, PE (reassigned for third year)

NORTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Lauren Donovan (Waukesha WI) to **Peace-Largo MD**: gr 3-4

Douglas Van Sice (Capac MI) to **New Mission-Huntersville NC**: pastor

Mark Voss (Williamston MI) to **Immanuel-Long Valley NJ**: associate pastor for district president

NORTHERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Lauren Ewings (Lakeville MN) to **Fox Valley LHS**: English

Meryl Hirsch (Norfolk NE) to **Trinity-Kaukauna WI**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Hannah Holzhueter (Waterloo WI) to **Zion-Greenleaf WI**: 4K, 5K (assignment made permanent)

Kristi Horn (New Ulm MN) to **Faith-Fond du Lac WI**: gr 3 (one-year assignment)

Philip Janisch (Plymouth MN) to **Trinity-Brillion WI**: associate pastor

Christopher Johns (Crete IL) to **St. Matthew-Pound WI**: pastor

Madeline McMullen (Roland IA) to **Grace-Oshkosh WI**: kindergarten

Daniel Roemhildt (North Mankato MN) to **St. Peter-Sturgeon Bay WI**: gr 7-8, technology

Erick Schalo (Bloomington MN) to **St. Peter-Weyauwega WI**: gr 3-4

Nathan Scharf (New Ulm MN) to **Immanuel-Greenville WI**: gr 6, principal training program (reassigned for third year)

Hannah Schlomer (Moorhead MN) to **Zion-Rhineland WI**: ECE (one-year assignment)

Matthew Stuebs (Appleton WI) to **Calvary-Abrams WI**: pastor

Bethany Waldschmidt (Greenfield WI) to **St. Paul-Algoma WI**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Jacob Biebert (Neillsville WI) to **St. Matthew-Spokane WA**: gr 5-8, principal

Phillip Bunkowske (Watertown SD) to **Evergreen LHS**: instructor, coaching, recruitment

Geoffrey Rue (Racine WI) to **St. Paul-Tacoma WA**: associate pastor

Martin Santos (Seattle WA) to **Holy Trinity-Des Moines WA**: upper grades, departmentalized (one-year assignment)

Micah Wendt (Onalaska WI) to **Immanuel-Salem OR**: gr 3-5

SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Julia Barthels (Mishicot WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Doral FL**: gr 5 (one-year assignment)

Isaac Crass (Watertown WI) to **Christ Our Savior-Columbia TN**: associate pastor for district president



Joanne Powers
DMLC 1982
Milwaukee WI



Joshua Krieger
MLC 2007
Tecumseh MI



Jonathan Ladner
NWC 1982
Bloomington MN



Jeanette Ewart
MLC 1997
Broken Arrow OK

MLC AND WLS GRADUATES

SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Aaron Markgraf (Cincinnati OH) to **St. Paul-Beverly Hills FL**: gr 7-8, principal training program (one-year assignment)

Justin Marshall (Dickinson TX) to **Divine Savior Academy-Doral FL**: middle school (one-year assignment)

Eric Melso (Brookfield WI) to **New Mission-Chattanooga TN**: pastor

Hannah Schmidt (Fond du Lac WI) to **St. Paul-Beverly Hills FL**: gr 1 (one-year assignment)

Mariah Schoof (New Ulm MN) to **Sola Fide-Lawrenceville GA**: gr 3-5

Andrew Schrimpf (Goodhue MN) to **Cross of Glory-Baton Rouge LA**: pastor

Joel Sonntag (Milwaukee) to **Good Shepherd-Deltona FL**: gr 6-8, principal training program (one-year assignment)

Katie Wentker (Mishicot WI) to **New Hope-West Melbourne FL**: gr 1-2

Emily Westra (Fairfield OH) to **Divine Savior Academy-Doral FL**: gr 5 (assignment made permanent)

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Matthew Lange (Bowling Green OH) to **Abiding Word-Houston**: gr 6, departmentalized, athletic director, coach, vice principal (one-year assignment)

Rachel Nitz (Sanford MI) to **Sienna Lutheran Academy-Sienna Plantation TX**: gr 3-4, choir, drama, coaching (one-year assignment)

Benjamin Schone (New Ulm MN) to **Abiding Word-Houston**: associate pastor

Joshua Shandor (Milwaukee) to **King of Kings-Little Rock AR**: pastor

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Desiree Alge (Jenera OH) to **St. Marcus-Milwaukee**: kindergarten (assignment made permanent)

Bethany Baumann (Waukesha WI) to **Resurrection-Aurora IL**: gr 3-4

Abbie Brown (Watertown SD) to **St. Paul-Cudahy WI**: K5, organ (one-year assignment)

James Christensen (Milwaukee) to **St. Marcus-Milwaukee**: gr 3 (assignment made permanent)

Shannon Eggers (Jackson WI) to **Lord and Savior-Crystal Lake IL**: gr 5-8 (one-year assignment)

Jason Free (Rapid City SD) to **Christ the Lord-Brookfield WI**: associate pastor for district president (assignment made permanent)

Nicole Gawel (Milwaukee) to **St. Lucas-Milwaukee**: gr 1 (one-year assignment)

Lindsay Hughes (West Bend WI) to **Wisconsin LHS**: science (one-year assignment)

Julie Kent (Milwaukee) to **Siloah-Milwaukee**: gr 5-8, math (one-year assignment)

ChiSeon Kim (Seoul, South Korea) to **Jerusalem-Morton Grove IL**: gr 5-6, math, After School Academy (assignment made permanent)

Abigail Koelpin (New Ulm MN) to **Trinity-West Bend WI**: gr 3-4, music (one-year assignment)

Lisa Koschnitzke (Jackson WI) to **Illinois LES-Crete IL**: ECE

Travis Kretsch (New Ulm MN) to **Kettle Moraine LHS**: PE, health (one-year assignment)

Emily Kristopeit (Watertown SD) to **Mt. Lebanon-Milwaukee**: ECE (one-year assignment)

Sarah Krueger (Round Rock TX) to **Trinity-Waukesha WI**: gr 6 (one-year assignment)

John Kujath (East Troy WI) to **Our Savior-Zion IL**: gr 5-6, coaching, principal apprentice (assignment made permanent)

Joshua Lindner (Oak Creek WI) to **Kettle Moraine LHS**: English

Jeremy Maas (New Ulm MN) to **St. Marcus-Milwaukee**: middle grades (assignment made permanent)

Michael Martens (New Ulm MN) to **Trinity-Caledonia WI**: gr 5

Kaylee Messman (Two Rivers WI) to **St. Lucas-Milwaukee**: middle grades, language arts (one-year assignment)

Jardan Patrick (Sahiwal, Pakistan) to **Joint Mission Council-Waukesha WI**: pastor

Magdalena Petermann (Saginaw MI) to **Bethany-Kenosha WI**: gr 1-2, organ

Megan Plocher (Covington GA) to **Kettle Moraine LHS**: English (one-year assignment)

Keely Prekop (Lake Geneva WI) to **Loving Shepherd-Milwaukee**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Monica Quinnett (Greenfield WI) to **Calvary-Thiensville WI**: middle grades (one-year assignment)

Janelle Radue (Waukesha WI) to **Christ/St. Peter-Milwaukee**: gr 7 (assignment made permanent)

Jeffrey Rick (La Valle WI) to **Illinois LHS**: history, English, MLC recruitment, coaching

Kristin Rockhoff (Jefferson WI) to **Crown of Life-Hubertus WI**: K4 (reassigned for second year)

David Roekle (Racine WI) to **Good Shepherd-Downers Grove IL**: gr 7-8, principal apprentice (one-year assignment)



Andrew
Loescher
MLC 2012
Jackson WI



Dennis
Belter
NWC 1977
Eau Claire MI



Heather
Walth
MLC 1997
Mobridge SD



Michael
Lindemann
NWC 1987
Watertown WI

Assigned to Your District

Katherine Seelman (Elkhorn WI) to **Atonement-Milwaukee:** gr 3 (reassigned for third year)

Megan Stein (New Ulm MN) to **Christ/St. Peter-Milwaukee:** gr 4 (one-year assignment)

Christopher Stollfus (Picket WI) to **Word of Life-Milwaukee:** gr 3-5, science, coaching (assignment made permanent)

Nixon Vivar (Cochancay Canar, Ecuador) to **Christ-Milwaukee:** pastor

Aaron Voss (Williamston MI) to **Living Water-Wind Lake WI:** pastor

Hope Werre (Sun Prairie WI) to **Peace-Hartford WI:** middle grades, music

Amber Zibrowski (Mankato MN) to **St. Lucas-Milwaukee:** STEM, middle grades (one-year assignment)

Seth Zoellner (Eden Prairie MN) to **Trinity-Waukesha WI:** gr 5-8, science, math

WESTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Jared Beduze (Watertown WI) to **Northland LHS:** Spanish

Tarah Beduze (Boise ID) to **Key to Life Christian Childcare-Weston WI:** ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Morgan Beyer (Watertown WI) to **Trinity/St. Luke-Watertown WI:** gr 7-8 (assignment made permanent)

Johannah Crass (Watertown WI) to **Luther Preparatory School:** tutor (reassigned for second year)

Samuel Crass (Watertown WI) to **Luther Preparatory School:** tutor (one-year assignment)

Benjamin Ewings (De Forest WI) to **Luther Preparatory School:** tutor (reassigned for second year)

Emma Hirsch (Manhattan KS) to **Luther Preparatory School:** tutor (one-year assignment)

Joshua Jensen (Ixonia WI) to **Luther Preparatory School:** tutor (one-year assignment)

Lucas Krogmann (Iron Ridge WI) to **Luther Preparatory School:** instructor (one-year assignment)

Carl Manske (Appleton WI) to **Northland LHS:** math

Daniel Marggraf (Delano MN) to **Faith/Our Savior-Elizabeth/Freeport IL:** pastor

Christian Marquardt (Racine WI) to **St. James-Milwaukee:** pastor

Alana Mittelstadt (Lake Elmo MN) to **St. John-Neillsville WI:** gr 3-5, music (one-year assignment)

Joshua Mose (Iron Ridge WI) to **St. Mark-Watertown WI:** gr 3, principal training program (reassigned for second year)

Sarah Mose (Madison WI) to **Peace-Sun Prairie WI:** K4 (one-year assignment)

Rachel Naumann (Morton Grove IL) to **Luther Preparatory School:** tutor (reassigned for second year)

Larry Neitzel (Grafton WI) to **St. John/St. Matthew-Kendall/Ontario WI:** pastor

Ruth Nottling (Fox Lake WI) to **Luther Preparatory School:** tutor (reassigned for second year)

Ashley Phillips (Janesville WI) to **Holy Cross-Madison WI:** K4 (one-year assignment)

Ethan Rixe (Hoskins NE) to **Christ/St. John-West Salem WI:** gr 5-6, athletic director

Luke Rosenbaum (Wildomar CA) to **Luther HS:** math, coaching

Luke Rothe (New Berlin WI) to **Luther Preparatory School:** tutor (one-year assignment)

Peter Schlicht (Black Creek WI) to **Eastside-Madison WI:** associate pastor

Caleb Schultz (Ottawa, Ontario) to **Luther Preparatory School:** tutor (reassigned for one year)

Peter Wells (Dresser WI) to **St. Mark-Watertown WI:** associate pastor for district president (assignment made permanent)

Megan Wenzel (Appleton WI) to **St. Paul-Tomah WI:** K4 (one-year assignment)

WORLD MISSIONS

Aimee Duncan (Mechanicville NY) to **St. John-St. John's, Antigua:** gr 5 (one-year assignment)

Stephanie Rockhoff (Kenosha WI) to **St. John-St. John's, Antigua:** gr 2 (one-year assignment)

Nathan Schulte (La Valle WI) to **Latin American Mission:** pastor

STUDENTS OPTING FOR INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Jacob Colvin
(St. Mark-Watertown WI)

Christopher Dean
(Redeemer-Edna TX)

Linden Jahns
(Peace-Green Lake WI)

Jonathan Medico
(Ascension-Sarasota FL)

Joseph Neuberger
(Eternal Love-Appleton WI)

*Additional calls and assignments may have been made since this list went to press. For the fully updated list, go to mlc-wels.edu/assignments and wls.wels.net/about-wels/assignment-list



Mark D
Swanson
MLC 2012
Vancouver WA



Emily
Kremer
MLC 2002
Brookfield WI



Douglas
Semenske
NWC 1972
Ripon WI



Jacob
Scriver
MLC 2012
Mundelein IL

Thalassa Prize

2017 Thalassa Winner

Rebecca Wendland
“A Place of Honor”

Rebecca Wendland '96 helps her husband, Pastor Robert Wendland WLS '98, serve the Lutheran Church of Central Africa (LCCA) in Malawi. Rebecca designated half of her \$1000 prize to the LCCA. This is the eleventh annual Thalassa Prize.

When I turned my head, I saw dozens of blinking eyes. Kids. Lots of them. They were crowding around and pushing forward trying to see. It wasn't to stare at a screen. They came to worship.

Bursting-at-the-seams church services in Malawi, Africa, aren't unusual. A church celebration is a highlight in village life. People dress their best. They walk hours and cover many kilometers to attend. For what? Dirt floors, brick walls, cement benches. It's really God's Word that people spend their whole Sunday to hear.

As I attended a special church event in a southern Malawi village, I was introduced to a dozen respected chiefs who traveled from nearby villages for the occasion. They were escorted to plastic chairs at the front. National pastors were also ushered to chairs. It wasn't long before I was surprisingly offered a chair. What an honor. Sitting was a special privilege. That seat was my secured space for the next several hours while anthems were sung and sermons were preached. I looked around. The church was absolutely packed. Hundreds of people were crammed shoulder to shoulder sitting on benches or on the floor. Hundreds more were crowded into the doorways, standing, leaning, and straining to listen and participate.

It was a day of sharing Jesus and our hope in heaven. Scripture proclaims that believers can confidently look forward to their guaranteed place in heaven. *John 14:2-3: "In my Father's house are many rooms. . . . I am going there to prepare a place for you."* Worship in heaven will no doubt transcend brick obstacles.

I look forward to the day I will sit or stand shoulder to shoulder with countless believers gathered from around the world to worship in our Savior's presence. It will truly be a heavenly "place of honor" praising God together, forever.





EQUIPPED TO DO GOD'S WILL

A Strategic Plan for Martin Luther College (2017-2023)

From President Mark Zarling: During the six-year period of this strategic plan, **Martin Luther College** will pause to celebrate 25 years of the Savior's rich blessing upon our endeavors to train full-time gospel servants. We will invite our synod to join us in gratitude to the Lord, even as we thank Jesus for the synod that owns and supports us.

Though MLC will celebrate only a silver anniversary, we remember with rejoicing a long, rich heritage. For over 150 years, **WELS** has demonstrated a zealous commitment to training young men and women to be confessional Lutheran gospel servants. **Northwestern College**, founded in 1865, provided preseminary training for young men seeking to serve as parish pastors. That effort continues in MLC's preseminary Bachelor of Arts program. **Dr. Martin Luther College**, founded in 1884, trained men and women to serve as teaching ministers. That effort continues in MLC's Bachelor of Science programs: early childhood education, elementary education, secondary education, special education, and staff ministry. In recent years we have also seen significant growth in our graduate studies and continuing education programs. *Soli Deo Gloria* that MLC remains a dedicated college of ministry, seeking by the Spirit's grace to be Bible-based and Christ-centered in all we do.

The following strategic plan recognizes God's amazing activity in our midst. Much has changed since amalgamation in 1995. The WELS College of Ministry keeps ears and hearts open to the needs of the visible church it serves, while remaining fixed on our clear purpose: to train even more gospel servants to seize the ever-growing opportunities to *go and tell*. This strategic plan focuses on many partnerships in view of such opportunities. This plan also recognizes the need to support and strengthen our infrastructure, both physical space and human resources. We do all this in a spirit of thanksgiving and trust that our Savior God will keep his promises. *Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails*. So confidently we hear the voice of Jesus when he says: *Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans*.

EQUIPPED TO DO GOD'S WILL

A Strategic Plan for Martin Luther College (2017-2023)

Rejoicing that God equips us to do his will, we focus on five components of our mission at Martin Luther College:

GOAL 1: STUDENTS

GOAL 2: SERVICE

GOAL 3: SITE

GOAL 4: STAFFING

GOAL 5: SUPPORT

VISION

Jesus, the Living Shepherd, provides all good and necessary gifts to his flock. Relying on that promise, MLC dispenses such gifts through his Word, serving as an instrument of the Spirit to equip a diverse corps of shepherds who proclaim and do his gracious will.

*May the God of peace,
who through the blood of the eternal covenant
brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great Shepherd of the sheep,
equip you with everything good for doing his will,
and may he work in us what is pleasing to him,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory
for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)*

Some Background . . .

The MLC administration engaged the consulting firm Credo to assist in a self-study. College leaders read the Credo book *Surviving to Thriving: A Planning Framework for Leaders of Private Colleges and Universities* (Joanne Soliday and Rick Mann), which identifies nine elements separating colleges that simply survive from colleges that thrive:

- 1) Collaborative and courageous leadership
- 2) Vision
- 3) Institutional self-esteem
- 4) Institutional story
- 5) Habit of reflection and intentionality
- 6) Culture of planning and innovation
- 7) Net revenue and strategic finance
- 8) Student learning and success
- 9) Transformative environments

Credo then administered their "Thriving Framework Diagnostic Tool" based on these nine elements. Data from the diagnostic tool was gathered and refined by a college think tank. The think tank then shared the data with faculty and staff throughout the 2015-16 school year; sought additional input from faculty, staff, and students; and presented a final report to the Administrative Council at a planning retreat in May 2016.

The results of this self-study, examined through the lens of Scripture and MLC's mission, are contained in the following pages. The administration will continue to consult with Credo as we work to fulfill the initiatives of this 2017-2023 strategic plan, *Equipped to Do God's Will*.

**See MLC's mission on page 27 of this magazine.*

Watch President Mark Zarling's video message on "Equipped to Do God's Will" at mlc-wels.edu/strategic-plan/

GOAL 1 STUDENTS

Rejoicing that God works in us, we are equipped to . . .

Expand our students' learning experiences through curricular resources, experiential learning, and increased financial aid.

INITIATIVE 1.1 *Review Curricular and Advisory Resources*

- Institute comprehensive **program review** for all majors
- Improve tools for **student advisors**
- Revise **secondary education** majors to meet synod needs
- Develop online registration/scheduling for **incoming first-years**



MLC students choose from several majors, preparing them for the many different ways they can serve the church: preseminary studies, elementary education, Spanish, instrumental music, early childhood education, secondary math, parish music, special education, administration . . . the list goes on and on.

Initiative 1.1 directs us to establish a comprehensive and ongoing review of all degree programs. We'll also evaluate and revise our secondary education majors to be sure we are best meeting the needs of the WELS high schools where our graduates will serve.

INITIATIVE 1.2 *Increase Financial Aid*

- Expand **financial literacy** resources to graduates
- Develop plans to increase financial aid, including new sustainable strategies



Financial Literacy Coordinator **JoElyn Krohn** earned Honorable Mention in a national Financial Educator of the Year Contest. This year Mrs. Krohn met with 279 first-years, transfers, and seniors, assisting them with budgeting, loans, credit cards, and debt management. One senior wrote: "The budget plan JoElyn created was a great tool. Although I know I have a lot more to learn, this was most beneficial in preparing for my financial future with my husband and in taking the necessary and appropriate steps for healthy financial living."

One objective of **Initiative 1.2** is to expand this financial literacy education to our graduates who are already serving and paying off their college loans. Essentially, we want to do all we can to increase financial aid, ease our students' debt-load, and educate them in good stewardship principles for their lives of gospel service.

GOAL 1 STUDENTS

INITIATIVE 1.3 Increase Service & Leadership Learning

- Offer first-year **Early Field Experience (EFE)** to preseminary students
- Require a **Daylight** experience for every undergrad (see Initiative 2.3)
- Develop expectation that organizations do community **service projects**



The Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) hosted a kickball game with athletes from the New Ulm Wild Bunch Special Olympics in April. Two teams were organized with MLC student-athletes and New Ulm area people with special needs or disabilities. High fives, hugs, and signing autographs after the game made for a memorable day for everyone.

This is one kind of service project that **Initiative 1.3** encourages.

INITIATIVE 1.4 Increase Faculty Qualifications & Diversity

In accordance with scriptural guidelines and Higher Learning Commission recommendations,

- Increase number of faculty with **advanced degrees**
- Adjust **full-time equivalent (FTE)** to 27 hours for undergrad faculty and 24 hours for graduate faculty
- Call additional qualified **female and ethnic minority** professors, as appropriate

INITIATIVE 1.5 Explore an Institute for the Liturgical Arts

- Assess interest and need for **institute** in partnership with Commission on Worship
- Consider addition of **art minor** in conjunction with institute
- Evaluate budget impact and **facility availability**



The Music Hall may see a “retro-reno,” a renovation that takes it back to its structural origins. Originally called the Aula, this 1911 hall with balcony was used as a worship and recital space for decades. In the mid-20th century, it was reconfigured into two floors of organ practice rooms.

Some of those walls may now come down, opening the space once again for recitals and rehearsals—as well as a new Institute of Liturgical Arts (**Initiative 1.5**) dedicated to honoring and worshiping God through all the creative arts.

GOAL 1 STUDENTS

INITIATIVE 1.6 *Prepare School Administrators Fully*

- Establish MLC Master of Science in Educational Administration degree as exclusive means of principal/ECE director development and calling



Rendy Koeppel DMLC '81, principal at St. Paul/First-North Hollywood, left the MLC MS-Education program—to enroll in the MS-Educational Administration program instead.

“WELS educators need to be at the top of their game to best serve students and families,” he says. “This program helps me as an administrator to improve and better serve my Lord, my school, my congregation, and our synod.”

According to **Initiative 1.6**, the MS-Educational Administration degree will evolve into the exclusive means of training principals and ECE directors, replacing other less comprehensive training programs.

“This program focuses on the unique needs of WELS principals and ECE directors, who are more than simply administrators,” says **Dr. John Meyer** DMLC '87, program director. “They’re a combination of principal, superintendent, and spiritual leader.”

INITIATIVE 1.7 *Explore Campus Special Ed Diagnostic Program*

- Offer **diagnostic program** locally and then expand
- Add a **SpEd professor/resource** position



In May 2019 **Samantha Sievert** (Zion-Crete IL) will graduate with a double major in special education (SpEd) and early childhood education. The SpEd major, which was rolled out three years ago, was officially approved by the Minnesota Board of Teaching in May. When Samantha graduates, she will be qualified to apply for the Academic and Behavioral Strategist (ABS) license—and to serve a school and probably an entire region as a special education resource.

Initiative 1.7 envisions MLC having more than simply a major. The college will become a diagnostic center for children who have learning disabilities—beginning locally and expanding to become a district and synod-wide resource.

INITIATIVE 1.8 *Fine-Tune Recruitment Mindset*

- Communicate an **opportunity mindset** (“fields are ripe”) instead of a necessity mindset (“fill the vacancies”)
- Explore **new ministry opportunities**



These 26 Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS) students are enrolling at MLC next year. That’s half of this high school’s class of 2017! We’re grateful to the MLS faculty and staff for their considerable recruitment efforts.

Our admissions department is always hard at work as well. Here are our 2016-17 recruitment efforts by the numbers:

- 750** – Focus on Ministry weekend visitors
- 100** – Other high school visitors
- 250** – Grade school visitors
- 10,000** – Off-campus admissions counselor visits with high schoolers

Initiative 1.8 validates all these excellent recruitment endeavors and urges even more. We want to focus not simply on filling current synod vacancies, but on preparing as many pastors, teachers, and staff ministers as we possibly can and then exploring new ways and places they can serve. “Open your eyes and look at the fields!” our Lord said. “They are ripe for harvest” (John 4:35).

GOAL 2 SERVICE

Rejoicing that God works in us, we are equipped to . . .
Strengthen our partnerships with WELS to nurture diverse preaching and teaching ministries.

INITIATIVE 2.1 *Develop Diverse Educational Opportunities On and Off Campus*

- Explore **offsite ministerial training** of diverse student groups
- Provide online resources for **homeschoolers**

WELS Partners:

Board for Home Missions,
Board for Ministerial
Education, Commission
on Lutheran Schools



Rising sophomore **Elena Mueller** (pictured with her friend *Soyoun Park*) graduated from Divine Savior Academy (DSA) in Doral, Florida. Elena's dad is a pastor, so she was well acquainted with the ministerial training system. But the vast majority of the nearly 1,000 students at DSA do not know about MLC. In fact, most were not even born in America. They come from Colombia, Argentina, Puerto Rico, China, and a dozen or more other countries.

Some want to be WELS pastors and teachers, following in the footsteps of the called workers they've come to love at DSA. But traveling 1800 miles north to Minnesota could be a deterrent.

Might MLC find a way to provide ministerial training to DSA graduates on their own turf? That's one possibility **Initiative 2.1** is asking us to consider.

INITIATIVE 2.2 *Meet Ministry Training Needs of Diverse People Groups*

- Identify people groups in our fellowship who seek **theological training** for church maturation and explore ways to offer training (degree or non-degree)

WELS Partners: Board for World Missions, Global Ministry Committee, Pastoral Studies Institute at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary



In recent years, several MLC professors have taught at other seminaries in fellowship with us around the globe—in Zambia (pictured), Cameroon, Malawi, and Hong Kong, for example. Our professors also travel to Antigua in an ongoing effort to provide education courses to their faculty. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. WELS has received approximately 300 requests worldwide—from people and churches in fellowship with us—who want ministerial training.

Initiative 2.2 urges that we explore expanded partnerships to provide this training. Christ said, “Go into all the world.” Who could have imagined how insistently the world would be knocking at our door and requesting that we come to them?

GOAL 2 SERVICE

INITIATIVE 2.3 Enhance Preservice Ministry Experiences

- Solidify budget support for **Daylight USA** and **Daylight International** to enable every student to participate (See Initiative 1.3)
- Leverage **social media & technology** to connect students with inservice called workers for purpose of mutual encouragement

WELS Partners:

Board for World Missions,
WELS congregations



Four MLC students spent part of their spring break in Vegas on a Daylight USA ministry trip. **Justin Marshall** (Lord of Life-Friendswood TX), **Yaffet Gabayehu** (Shepherd of Peace-Powell OH), **Christopher Pflughoeft** (Bethlehem-Germantown WI), and **Dan Schmidt** (St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI) helped construct this large replica of the empty tomb for Beautiful Savior-Las Vegas.

Pastor Andrew Mueller wrote to thank the young men for their hard work, reporting that many visitors came for Easter and more than a dozen prospect families were identified. “We are incredibly grateful for God’s generosity,” Pastor Mueller said, “and particularly thankful for his gracious gifts to us through you MLC students!”

Every year dozens of MLC students do Daylight USA projects—traveling to a distant congregation to lead VBS, assist at worship, canvass, coach at soccer Bible camps, and much more. It’s a program that provides priceless experience for our students. That’s why one aspect of **Initiative 2.3** seeks to make Daylight USA an expectation for every student at MLC at least once before graduation.



INITIATIVE 2.4 Explore K-12 STEAM Education Preparation

- Investigate **benefits of STEAM** (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) emphasis for some WELS schools
- Investigate feasibility of K-12 **STEAM education training**
- **Redesign secondary science majors** to include STEAM emphasis, in order to better serve WELS schools (See Initiative 1.1)

WELS Partners:

Commission on Lutheran
Schools, WELS schools



On Call Day 2017, 11 MLC graduates—including **Gina Radue** (Mt. Calvary-Waukesha WI, pictured)—were assigned or reassigned to teach science and/or math at a Lutheran high school.

Many of our Lutheran schools are exploring curricula that focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) or STEAM (the same—with the addition of arts) to prepare their students for a global economy that increasingly requires proficiency in these areas.

Although MLC already has secondary education majors in math, chemistry, physics, and life science, **Initiative 2.4** directs MLC to redesign the three science majors to include a STEAM emphasis.

Here, as always, the question we are asking is this: What can we do to best serve our WELS churches and schools?

INITIATIVE 3.1 Implement MLC Master Site Plan

- Estimate each project's **impact on budget and programs**—immediately and again 18 months before construction
- **Partner** with WELS Capital Projects Committee and Ministry of Christian Giving



Centennial Hall (pictured) houses about 120 first-year women. We're considering the addition of a third floor—about 60 beds—to this residence hall. It's part of our Master Site Plan, which drives **Initiative 3.1**.

The Master Site Plan includes campus enhancements in four categories:

- student housing
- athletics
- music
- HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning)

Although Scripture, people, and programming are the gist of ministerial training, facilities do matter. Air conditioning, for instance, would allow us to bring groups to campus all summer, enhancing our recruitment and hospitality capabilities.

A fieldhouse and/or track, as well as improved music facilities, would tell high school students we are serious about them fully developing their gifts for use in God's kingdom.

The Master Site Plan allows us to continue providing a campus that is safe, attractive, and sufficient for the needs of the students dedicating their lives to gospel ministry.

GOAL 3 SITE

INITIATIVE 3.2 Utilize Data-Driven Analytics to Evaluate All Onsite Support Functions

- Assure regular collection of **data**
- Complete **reports** required by state, federal, and accreditation agencies
- Assist departments with **process** improvement
- Advise on future strategic **planning** for the college

INITIATIVE 3.3 Appoint a Part-Time Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness.

- Allocate FTE for this part-time **director**

INITIATIVE 3.4 Appoint a Compliance Officer to Advise Administration of Higher Education Compliance Issues

- Allocate FTE for this **compliance** officer or combine it with the director of institutional research & effectiveness

INITIATIVE 3.5 Recruit More Underrepresented Students

- Implement Quality Initiative 2018: “Enhancing Recruitment and Retention of Underrepresented Student Populations”



Our 2016-17 student body included the international students pictured here. In the past 15 years, we’ve enrolled students from Canada, Antigua, South Korea, St. Lucia, Colombia, Germany, Sweden, Russia, Ukraine, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Japan, Pakistan, and Guyana. Our International Services Office supports these students every step of the way, from enrollment to graduation and beyond.

Initiative 3.5 directs us to expand the recruitment and retention of international students—as well as other historically underrepresented student populations: Native American students, African-American students, provisionally accepted students, and married students. These underrepresented students comprise about 11% of our enrollment now.

Why is this expansion important? Because our Lord said to “Make disciples of all nations.” Because the church is growing exponentially in diverse countries, cultures, and neighborhoods. And because WELS has international and multicultural ministry needs now.

GOAL 4 STAFFING

Rejoicing that God works in us, we are equipped to . . .
More fully empower our personnel with sufficient staffing, professional development, and communication.

INITIATIVE 4.1 *Promote Seamless Succession in Leadership*

- Identify candidates for future **leadership** positions
- Expand current **supervisory training**
- Fund professional development that focuses on **succession planning**



The office of dean for educational studies has seen several faces over the last few



years. **Dr. Jeff Wiechman** served until he moved into a vice president's office. Then



Professor Earl Heidtke faithfully filled the position a short time until he

retired. Now **Professor Benjamin Clemons** will step in. **Initiative 4.1** directs us to be deliberate in the planning and training needed to keep leadership succession as seamless as possible.

INITIATIVE 4.2 *Implement the 2015-16 Master Staffing Plan*

- Implement ongoing review of **staffing priorities**
- **Allocate funding** to fulfill plan by 2023



Dr. Kari Muent '99 joins our social sciences department as an economics and geography professor in 2017, fulfilling part of the Master Staffing Plan under **Initiative 4.2**. The first biennium (2017-2019) of this plan calls for two additional professors (social science and math/science) and three additional administrative assistants (education, admissions, and mission advancement).

INITIATIVE 4.3 *Improve Campus Communication*

- Hold quarterly **interactive sessions** for faculty and staff
- Hold annual **planning retreats** for campus departments on rotating basis
- Investigate tools to **enhance communication and collaboration** within and among departments

GOAL 5 SUPPORT

Rejoicing that God works in us, we are equipped to . . .
Nurture additional support from our constituents by showing transparency, gratitude, and the impact of their gifts.

INITIATIVE 5.1 *Continue Development of MLC Annual Fund*

- Clarify **purpose** (predictable and sustainable support), set budget goal, and identify revenue streams
- Develop print and online **communication** tools
- Implement best practices in **analytics** and donor relations

INITIATIVE 5.2 *Develop Comprehensive Capital Campaign*

- Enlist **consulting firms** to assist in capital campaign development
- Work with **WELS Ministry of Christian Giving (MCG)** for Phase 1 (2019-2021)
- **Complete** remaining phases of campaign



In connection with the 25th anniversary of Martin Luther College (1995-2020), we will initiate a comprehensive capital campaign with three emphases:

- Facilities (*See Initiative 3.1*)
- Financial aid for students (*See Initiatives 1.2 and 5.4*)
- Recruitment (*See Initiatives 1.8 and 3.5*)

We remember with deep gratitude our two previous campaigns—how by the power of the Spirit, God's people excelled in the grace of giving, resulting in two beautiful campus additions: the MLC Chapel of the Christ and the MLC Early Childhood Learning Center. We pray that you will partner with us once again as we take the next steps in providing high-quality ministerial training. God bless our efforts to “train a corps of Christian witnesses who are qualified to meet the ministry needs of WELS” (*MLC Mission Statement*).

GOAL 5 SUPPORT

INITIATIVE 5.3 *Continue to Celebrate and Communicate the Impact of MLC's Ministry*

- Intentionalize **connections** to constituents through print, website, social media, events, and all public relations
- Continue to inform **alumni**, involve them in events, and provide them the opportunity to invest in the *Fishers of Men* 25th anniversary drive (statue and scholarship)



The MLC *InFocus* magazine and the 2016 Advent Devotion booklet both won national design awards this year.

These Service Industry Advertising Awards (SIAA) are given for creativity and quality, recognizing the content and photos of MLC and the design work of Lime Valley Advertising

of Mankato. Lime Valley has won more SIAA awards than any other agency in Minnesota. MLC has been the recipient of eight of these awards in the last 13 years.

The *InFocus*—as well as the website, social media, events, and other print publications—is how we reach out to inform and involve you, our alumni and friends, in your WELS College of Ministry. **Initiative 5.3** urges us to continue and expand these efforts, so that you and we together can praise God for his many blessings on this ministry.

INITIATIVE 5.4 *Continue to Investigate Different Financial Aid Funding Models*

- Expand **Congregational Partner Grant Program** and develop a sustainability plan
- Investigate scope and impact of **federal financial aid** programs (See Initiative 1.2)

INITIATIVE 5.5 *Foster and Celebrate Our Constituents' Service*

- **Builders for Christ** projects
- Adjunct **professorships**
- **Congregational Contact** program
- **Master Site Plan** development (See Initiative 3.1)



In 2014, 25 alumni and Builders for Christ volunteers gave 1100+ hours to complete part of the Chapel of the Christ basement, saving the college \$27,500 in labor costs.

Initiative 5.5 directs us to foster this and various other ways our constituents serve this college with their time and talents.

The mission of Martin Luther College

is to train a corps of Christian witnesses who are qualified to meet the ministry needs of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and who are competent to proclaim the Word of God faithfully and in accord with the Lutheran Confessions in the Book of Concord.

To fulfill this mission, Martin Luther College carries out all instruction and programs of student life according to the gospel as revealed in the inspired and inerrant Word of God. 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.

To meet the current ministry needs of the WELS, Martin Luther College

- Prepares men for pastoral training at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary;
- Prepares men and women for service as teachers and staff ministers in the synod's churches, schools, and other institutions;
- Prepares men and women for other church ministries, both full- and part-time, responding to the needs of the WELS;
- Prepares international students for ministry in partnership with WELS mission fields; and
- Provides programs of graduate study and continuing education that meet the ministerial needs of the WELS.



Let's Get Together – Reunion Time

By **Steve Balza** DMLC '93, director of alumni relations

Are you a graduate of a year ending in 3 or 8? Were you part of a team, cast, or other special student group that would like to get together back at MLC? If so, now is the time to assemble a committee and start planning your 2018 reunion.

The Alumni Relations office is happy to help you coordinate your get-together. We'll provide reunion planners with a contact information list as well as a "how to" guide to get the ball rolling. Those planning to bring their group to campus benefit

from additional services such as mailing assistance, meal planning, campus space reservations, welcome packets, bookstore discounts, and guided tours.

To see what reunions are currently in the works, check out the reunions page on our website at mlc-wels.edu/alumni/reunions or contact Steve Balza (alumni@mlc-wels.edu or 507-217-1731).



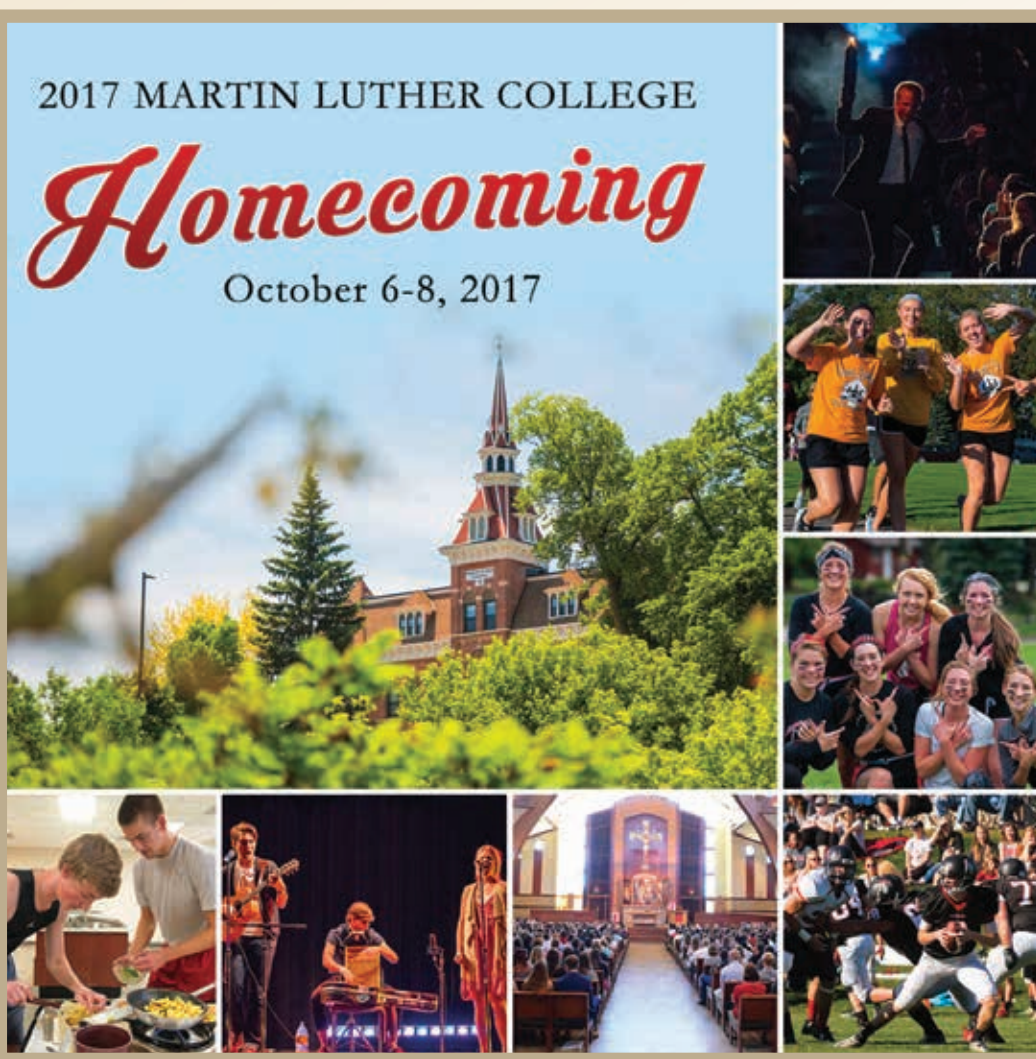
1989 Sound of Music Cast Reunion

MLC Facebook Following Surpasses 10,000!

Sports scores and pictures. Video clips from choir and band tours. Upcoming event promotions. Whiteboard messages to moms and dads. These items and more are easily (and often instantly) communicated to the MLC family via the facebook.com/mlcwels page. We are grateful that over 10,000 of you have officially "liked" our page. We thank you for sharing and commenting on our posts. We're glad you're using this social media tool to stay connected to your WELS College of Ministry and to share the many great things the Lord is doing here with your family and friends.

If you do not yet "like" the MLC page, please do so! If you have a suggestion for a post or general comments on our page, email it to Director of Public Relations Bill Pekrul (pekrulwa@mlc-wels.edu). We are always looking for ways to improve, and our ears are open.





Packed with events for the whole family, Homecoming is a great time *to make your way back here to the hill!*

- The always-popular **Talent Show** will fill the auditorium Friday night.
- Saturday morning's 1-mile **Sprinter Fun Run** is a great way to start your day. Register at <https://mlcsprinter17.eventbrite.com> by September 24 to purchase a T-shirt (optional) and to be eligible for prizes.
- Alumni, sign in at the Luther Student Center to receive your **complimentary alumni gift**.
- The **Family Fun Zone**—bounce house, photo booth, free treats, and games—will be open all morning.
- **Knights' cross country** teams will host their annual Invitational in Flandrau State Park.
- **Knights' football** takes on UM-Morris in the bowl.
- Both cross country and football will celebrate **Parents' Day** with pre-event ceremonies.
- Alumni, join us at the evening social at **Kegel Club**.
- Sunday morning, join us for complimentary coffee and donuts in the Chapel Fellowship Room followed by **worship** with MLC choirs in Chapel of the Christ.
- Conclude your weekend at the soccer pitch on Sunday afternoon for the **WLS/alumni soccer** game.

Note that October 6-8 is also New Ulm's Oktoberfest. Hotels will fill fast!

FULL SCHEDULE
mlc-wels.edu/events/homecoming

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 *Education*

Martin Luther, a reformer in education? Absolutely. The Reformation was essentially an educational movement. The Reformer's effort in reviving formal education is basic to his call for reform. In a sermon on keeping children in school, he bases his appeal chiefly on teaching children God's Word. "If the Scriptures and learning disappear," he asks with pointed rhetoric, "what will remain in the German lands but a disorderly and wild crowd indeed?"

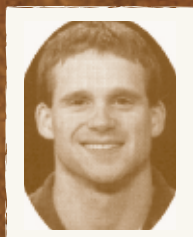
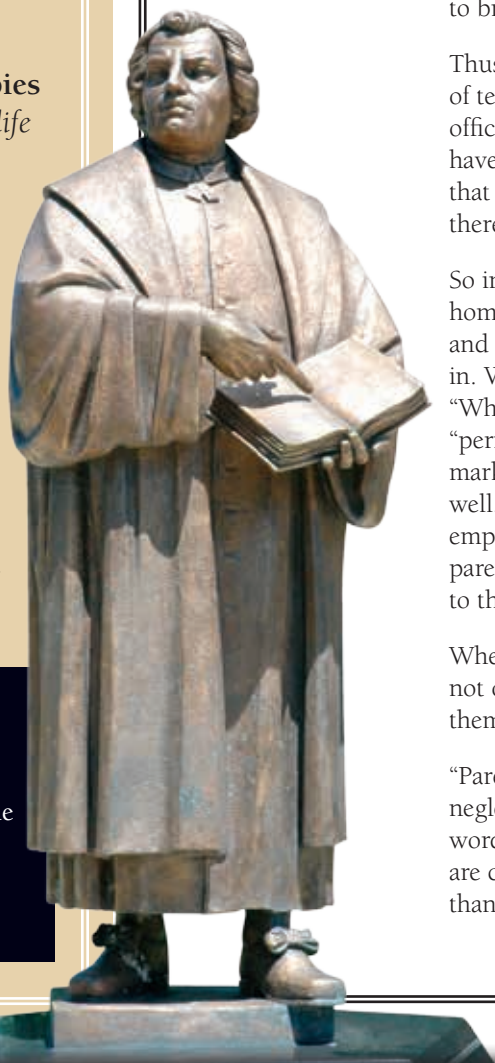
The key to renewing education lay in the schoolteacher's office. In God's sacred order, the office originates in the family. "Every parent is an overseer in his own house," Luther affirms, and so "it is the duty of father and mother to teach children and lead them to God." The school is merely the extension of the home. A teacher takes the parents' place in training the child. "Out of the authority of parents all other authority is derived and developed," he affirms, with an obvious application: "Where a father is unable by himself to bring up his child, he calls upon a schoolmaster to teach."

Thus the teacher has a vital role in serving the public. In praise of teachers, Luther frankly admits, "If I could leave the preaching office and my other duties, there is no other office I would rather have than that of schoolmaster or teacher; for I know that next to that of preaching, this is the best, greatest, and most useful office there is."

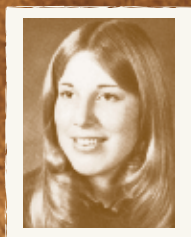
So important is the parents' position that the breakdown of the home results in tragic consequences for children, for the parents, and for the nation generally. In the long run, degeneration sets in. What children learn at home, they carry throughout life. "Where father and mother rule their families poorly," he observes, "permitting their children to have their own way, there no city, market, village, land, principality, kingdom, or empire is ruled well. For a son becomes a father, judge, mayor, prince, king, emperor, school teacher, etc." Echoing St. Paul, he states with a parent's heart, "God gave you children so you would bring them up to the best of their ability" (Ephesians 6:1-4).

When parents neglect their parental duties, their failure does not only come down on the children, but also on the parents themselves. In a wedding sermon, Luther instructed the couple:

"Parents can perform no more damaging bit of work than to neglect their offspring, to let them curse, swear, learn indecent words and songs, and permit them to live as they please. . . . They are constantly concerned to provide sufficiently for the body rather than for the soul. . . . Therefore, it is highly necessary that every



Jared
Rathje
MLC 2002
Port Huron MI



Linda
Proeber
DMLC 1977
Cudahy WI



Noah
Herrmann
MLC 2007
Sheboygan WI



Kara
Redlin
DMLC 1987
Tuscon AZ

married person regard the soul of their child with greater care and concern than the flesh which has come from them, that they consider the child nothing less than a precious, eternal treasure, entrusted to their protection by God, so that the devil, the world, and the flesh do not steal and destroy it. For the child will be required from the parents on Judgment Day in a very strict reckoning.”

To open a new path, Luther issued his education manifesto in a *Letter to the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany*: “*Establish and Maintain Christian Schools*” (1524). “We learn,” says the author, “that throughout all Germany the schools are declining, the universities becoming weak. . . . It is an earnest and great

Hand in hand with the foregoing educational aims is student development, growth of character and conscience. Luther knew youth’s penchant to ignore law and to disobey those in authority. Training is needed so that “by studying, reading, meditating, and praying, to be able in temptation to teach and comfort your own conscience as well as the conscience of others and to lead from the law back to grace, from active justice to passive justice.”

In this connection, Luther pioneered in advocating schools for girls. In an early manifesto to the Christian nobility, he outlines the need for a radical reform: “Would to God that every town had a girl’s school as well, where the girls would be taught the

Advice to Parents on Education

“See to it that you above all have your children instructed in spiritual things, that you first give them to God, then to secular pursuits.”

-Martin Luther

matter, deeply concerning Christ and the entire world, that we should help and counsel the young people.”

The summary goal of education, in Luther’s words, is simply “love,” even as Christ says love is the fulfilling of the law. A liberal education in itself will not free us, because it does not bring us the basic fear and love of God. “True it is,” Luther observes, “that human wisdom and the liberal arts are noble gifts of God. . . . But we never can learn from them in detail what sin and righteousness are in the sight of God, how we can get rid of our sins, become godly and just before God, and come to life from death.” For this reason “the foremost and most general subject of study . . . should be the Holy Scriptures.”

Implicit in learning the fear and love of God is the value of service to one’s neighbor, for “where the heart is right with God and this [the first] commandment is kept, fulfillment of all the others will follow of its own accord.” On this account, Luther gives advice to parents: “See to it that you above all have your children instructed in spiritual things, that you first give them to God, then to secular pursuits.”

gospel.” Later he reiterated the broad-based need for universal public education for everyone, girls and boys alike, to benefit society: “Only one thing is lacking,” he stated flatly, “the earnest desire to train the young and to benefit and serve the world with able men and women.” He himself took action. He invited Else von Kanitz to open a school for girls in Wittenberg and offered her room and board in his own home.



**John
Unnasch**
NWC 1977
Dakota MN



Mary Haar
MLC 2002
Toronto Ontario
Canada



**Dale
Baumler**
NWC 1967
Kingsford MI



**Erwin
Ekhoﬀ**
NWC 1972
Steger IL

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Professor Peter Baganz DMLC '87 (history) published "The Role of History in American Education," a chapter in a University of North Dakota online book called *Defending History: The Graduates' Manifesto*.



Professor Benjamin Clemons '03 (academic dean for education and staff ministry) led 40+ MLC and Bethany Lutheran College students on an urban ministry immersion trip to Milwaukee and Chicago. He also presented "Stand in the City—Understanding and Working with Poverty" at the WELS Staff Ministry Conference at MLC in April.

Professor Lawrence Czer DMLC '79 (English) is a new member of the New Ulm Human Rights Commission.

Professor Emeritus Gary Dallmann DMLC '64 was inducted into the US Collegiate Athletic Association Hall of Fame in Norfolk VA in June. *See full story on page 9.*

Professor Joel Fredrich WLS '82 (Greek/theology) and **Professor Emeritus Daniel Deutschlander** WLS '68 led Bible studies of Acts 1-3 and Mark 9-10, respectively, for Nebraska District pastors at Gethsemane-Omaha in July.

Laurie Gauger DMLC '87 (writer/editor) and her son, Philip Biedenbender, saw the publication of their choral anthem "And You Will Sleep" by earthsongs in April.

Professor Brian Hennig WLS '96 (theology/history) conducted a "Life of Luther" Seminar for the WELS Congregational Assistant Program at Gethsemane-Omaha NE in May. He also was accepted into the PhD program for Reformation Studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Professor Grace Hennig DMLC '89 (music) was a featured speaker at the 50th annual New Ulm Rotary Scholars Recognition Banquet in March. She had won the Rotary "Service Above Self" award herself in 1985.

Professor Craig Hirschmann DMLC '84 (music) presented an organ recital in Mankato MN in July for the Sioux Falls chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



Professor Galen Holzhueter '15 (admissions counselor) earned his Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Professor Paul Koelpin WLS '90 (history/theology) presented on various aspects of Lutheranism and contemporary culture at four different conferences: the Pacific Northwest Men's Retreat in April, the WELS Staff Ministry Conference at MLC in April, the Dakota/Montana District Teachers' Conference at Great Plains LHS in June, and the Southeastern Wisconsin District Convention in June.

JoElyn Krohn (financial literacy coordinator) earned Honorable Mention in the national CashCourse Financial Educator of the Year Contest.



Robert Martens '09 (webmaster/technician) earned his Master of Arts in Information Technology Leadership from the College of St. Scholastica.

Dr. John Meyer DMLC '87 (director of graduate studies and continuing education) led two full-day conferences for Lutheran teachers in February: one at St. Mark-Citrus Heights CA and the other at Grace-Glendale AZ. He presented "Learning-Focused Instruction" each morning and "Learning-Focused Supervision" each afternoon.

Professor Thomas Nass WLS '82 (Hebrew) presented "Topics from the Book of Joel" at a joint pastors' conference at St. Paul-Mauston WI in April.

Dr. Mark Paustian WLS '88 (English/Hebrew) preached and presented a four-session Bible study on the burning bush for three-year pastors and their wives at the Celebration of Ministry Retreat in San Antonio in April. He also led a Bible study on being God's ambassadors for the WELS Staff Ministry Conference at MLC in April. In July, he taught a one-week Hebrew Grammar Review course to pastors in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Professor Jonathan Schaefer '02 (new teacher induction) presented the workshop "Accelerating New Teachers' Success: The Role of School Leaders" at the principals' conference in Saginaw MI in February.

Professor David Scharf WLS '05 (theology) taught "The Theology and Practice of Stewardship" at the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Summer Quarter in June.

Professor John Schmidt WLS '74 (Greek) taught a Greek Review at the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Summer Quarter in June.

Professor Adrian Smith '03 (music) served as guest organist on Easter at St. John-Waterloo WI, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Professor Steven Thiesfeldt DMLC '74 (vice president for administration) presented the four-hour workshop "The Foolishness of God: A Biblical Perspective on Science" at the Pacific Northwest Pastor/Teacher Conference at Cannon Beach, Oregon, in October.

Professor Emeritus Wayne Wagner DMLC '72 led a music appreciation class for the New Ulm Community and Seniors Together Learning Environment (CASTLE) in conjunction with their attendance at a St. Paul Chamber Orchestra concert.



Professor Keith Wessel WLS '91 (Greek/Latin) earned his PhD in Classical Civilizations from the University of Florida in April. His dissertation was entitled "Charity Toward Widows in Early Christian Communities."

Professor Emeritus David Wendler

DMLC '70 received two awards at the annual meeting of the Higher Learning Commission in Chicago this spring: the Outstanding Service Award and the Pathways Training Service Award. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is the regional accreditation agency of colleges and universities for 19 states in the Midwest. Dr. Wendler has served the HLC since 1998 in a variety of leadership roles, including peer reviewer, team chair, peer reviewer trainer, and Institutional Actions Council member.



The Global Gospel

Professor Paul Bases DMLC '80 (Spanish) explored a new MLC immersion program site in Quito, **Ecuador**, in May. Every summer Profe Bases leads a five-week, six-credit Spanish immersion course in which students study the language, visit cultural sites, and, notably, pledge to speak only Spanish. MLC students are often joined by current pastors and teachers, as well as Spanish students from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Bethany Lutheran College, and Wisconsin Lutheran College.

Professor James Danell WLS '90 (German) attended the triennial convention of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) in Grimma, **Germany**, June 30-July 2. The CELC consists of 24 member churches worldwide. While in Germany, he also preached at the Greifswald congregation of Pastor Martin Wilde, Evangelisch-Lutherische Freikirche (ELFK) president, and visited the Schönfeld congregation of Pastor Holger Weiß, ELFK seminary president.

Professor Thomas Hunter DMLC '75 (director of international services) traveled to Antigua, **West Indies**, this spring. Fostering the ongoing relationship of MLC and St. John's Lutheran School-Antigua, Professor Hunter worshiped with the congregation; met with **Principal Joey Molyneaux** '12, Pastor **Jason Richards** WLS '07, and **Pastor Thomas Spiegelberg** WLS '97; and spoke with several prospective MLC students. One special highlight was delivering school supplies donated by MLC students.



Professor Hunter at Wordplay English Language School in Hanoi

Professor Hunter also traveled to **Vietnam** this summer. He explains: "I made field visits to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in preparation of MLC graduates joining a new group that has grown out of the Peace in Jesus Vietnamese ministry in Boise, Idaho. The locations in Hanoi are ready to receive MLC teachers: two for 2017-18 and an additional two the following year. Arrangements in Ho Chi Minh City are still being developed with the goal of sending two teachers for the 2018-19 school year."

Dr. Lawrence Olson WLS '83 (director of staff ministry) taught Sin and Its Consequences at the seminary of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Ministries, a sister synod of WELS in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, **India**. He taught the course for two weeks in July, one week to students and the following week to pastors.

Professor Jeff Wiechman DMLC '92 (vice president for academics) taught Teaching Social Studies in the Elementary School to the faculty of St. John's-Antigua, **West Indies**, in June. This is part of MLC's ongoing partnership with the faculty of St. John's.



Celebrating Ministry Anniversaries

Dr. James Grunwald DMLC '76 (40 years)

Professor David Bauer DMLC '78 (40 years)

Professor Mark Stein DMLC '92 (25 years)

Newly Called for 2017-2018

Catherine Biedenbender DMLC '85 Lead teacher at ECLC

Rachel Feld '06 Director of academic computing

Rachel Fredrich Professor of mathematics

Timothy Grundmeier '07 Professor of history

Galen Holzhuter '15 Admissions counselor

Jonathan Laabs '08 Professor of music

Kari Muenste '99 Professor of social sciences

Angela Scharf '99 Director of women's services

Tyson Zarnstorff '05 Professor of mathematics

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

RETIRING in 2017



Professor Joyce Diels DMLC '73 served at MLC 2008-2017. Prior to her ministry here, she served as math teacher at Minnesota Valley LHS (1994-2008), math teacher and coach at Manitowoc LHS (1975-94), and grade 5-6 teacher at Wisconsin Lutheran School-Racine WI (1973-75).

Dr. Cindy Whaley, an MLC professor of education, describes Professor Diels's devotion to excellence and faithfulness: "The hallmark of Joyce's service was faithfulness to her Lord and Savior as she diligently planned, instructed, and assessed her students in mathematics and mathematics education. She held her students to a high academic standard, and she worked tirelessly to help them achieve it. Joyce was extremely passionate about concurrently preparing future ministers of the gospel and excellent mathematics teachers for students of all ages.

"Joyce affected not only students at MLC but also young students through MLC's Meet Math program. Following in the footsteps of retired Professor David Pelzl, she maintained the tradition of involving MLC students in the execution of this program.

"Joyce's quiet leadership and listening ear to young and old on this campus will be missed. Her trademark in the mathematics division was the numerous cabinets of manipulatives that she purchased over the years. She used those manipulatives to solidify the mathematical philosophy that students of all ages (including college) learn best by using hands-on activities to solve real-world problems. Joyce hopes those cabinets continue to be used as she graciously leaves them behind for her successors."

Professor Diels plans to move to West Bend, Wisconsin, where she hopes to do some volunteering and some tutoring of students struggling in mathematics.



Dr. James Grunwald DMLC '78 has served MLC as director of academic computing since 1998. Prior to this, he served as math and technology teacher at Michigan Lutheran Seminary (1993-98), math and science teacher at Lakeside LHS (1980-93), grade 6-8 teacher at St. John-Libertyville IL (1979-80), math instructor at Northwestern Preparatory School (1978-79), and emergency teacher at St. John-Neillsville WI (1976-77).

Jim's colleague, Dr. John Meyer, director of graduate studies and continuing education, is grateful for Jim's work at Martin Luther College: "MLC's online education is on a solid foundation thanks to Jim's knowledge and organization. Jim helped MLC navigate a challenging and confusing time in education as colleges moved to take advantage of online education. He provides the training all MLC online instructors must complete. He makes sure all the

courses are set up, running smoothly, and evaluated each semester. Few people realize all the behind-the-scenes details he manages.

"Jim's expertise has enabled us not only to move to an online environment with great success but to keep it cutting-edge. He stays informed about new trends in online instruction. He has a knack for identifying reliable technologies with an eye for what has staying power. It's that vision that helped Jim launch Area Lutheran High School Online.

"Year-round, Jim can be seen arriving by foot or bike early in the morning and leaving late in the day to make sure MLC's online instruction is in good order. His dedication will be missed."

Dr. Grunwald will continue serving in two of his current capacities: as superintendent of Area Lutheran High Schools Online, which creates and manages online courses for WELS high school students, and as a faculty member in MLC's graduate program.



Professor Earl Heidtke DMLC '73 has served D/MLC as professor of education and social sciences since 1992. He served as academic dean of education and staff ministry from 2014 to 2017. Prior to his service on this campus, he served as history teacher and principal of Nebraska LHS (1985-92) and as principal and grade 5-8 teacher at Immanuel-Hadar NE (1973-85).

Dr. Roger Klockziem, a longtime colleague, describes Earl as an example for all teachers to emulate: "At the elementary, high school, and college levels, Earl has been a model of the teaching ministry. He demonstrates his love for sharing Jesus in a wide range of exemplary ways. In personal contacts with colleagues and with students in and out of the classroom, there is a spontaneously elevated excitement and an eagerness to understand and assist.

"When asked for counsel, he evidences wisdom as a student of Scriptures with practical, spiritual, and philosophical advice. He tells it like it is with honesty and integrity, whether accepted or not. He exercises a keen insight into circumstance with short- and far-reaching ramifications. This is especially true when his discerning mind evaluates current trends affecting Christian education. The philosophy of education he lives by is one that takes all things captive to the Word, regardless of their professional or humanistic sources.

"His ministry, a model for us all, will live on in the minds and hearts of WELS teachers for the sake of the kingdom."

Professor Heidtke and his wife, Pam, plan to stay in New Ulm but be more involved in the lives of their children and grandchildren. "Travel and freedom from schedules are dreams," he says. He also plans to spend some time on home improvements, gardening, and woodworking.



Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer DMLC '71 has served as professor of music at MLC since 1995. Prior to his ministry here, he was music/worship editor at Northwestern Publishing House-Milwaukee (1992-95), project coordinator for the WELS Hymnal Project (1990-92), music teacher at Martin Luther Preparatory School-Prairie du Chien WI (1979-1990), music teacher at Martin Luther Academy-New Ulm (1975-79), and grade 7 teacher and church/school music coordinator at St. Stephen-Beaver Dam WI (1971-75).

An MLC colleague, Dr. Wayne Wagner, thanks God for Dr. Moldenhauer's service: "Kermit's record of contributions to the church at large, the WELS, Martin Luther College, and individual churches and schools is long and varied. Not the least among these accomplishments are music editor of *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* and chairman of the *Christian Worship Supplement* Committee; conductor of festival choirs and presenter at several WELS Conferences on Worship, Music, & the Arts; chairman of the MLC Chapel of the Christ Building Committee; and conductor of the MLC College Choir as it presented the gospel in song throughout the United States and in Mexico.

"Principled, disciplined, and dedicated are attributes that Kermit evidenced consistently and in countless ways. Ideas, teaching, and projects came from convictions based in his faith, education, and experience. Carefully considered processes brought such ideas and projects to successful completion. Systematic teaching promoted learning. All this was underlain by dedication to the spread of the gospel and to his calling as a minister of that gospel. Excellence for the benefit of God's church was a constant goal. In an often quiet but persistent and unwavering manner he looked forward, seeking ways to make things work and be better for God's people. At the same time he valued the lessons and workings of the past, especially the heritage of the church's worship.

"In addition to relationships as a colleague, friends and acquaintances experienced his kindness, empathy, and compassion very directly. For that we are especially grateful. For all this and more, Kermit, we thank you for your ministry among us and pray that your retirement be a long and happy one, filled with continuing blessings from our Lord."

Dr. Moldenhauer and his wife, Laura, plan to move to Waupaca, Wisconsin, to be closer to family.



Dr. Chip Rupnow DMLC '79 has served as math professor at MLC since 2000. Prior to that, he served as math professor at Wisconsin Lutheran College (1990-2000) and Bethany Lutheran College (1986-90), math instructor at St. Norbert College-Green Bay WI (1981-82), math and science teacher at Manitowoc LHS (1980-81), and math instructor at Martin Luther Academy-New Ulm (1978-79).

Professor Rupnow's former student Sarah (Sherod) Gierach '14 describes the professor's impact on his students: "When most students think of Professor Rupnow, they remember him in his Friday attire: teal pants, briefcase, a smile on his face, and a math joke at the ready.

"No matter what day of the week it was, he was always ready to take the time to greet students and patiently answer any questions. He held his students to a high standard by expecting much while inspiring content mastery. He demonstrated what it means to be a good teacher by thoughtfully listening to students' questions.

"Chip served his Savior faithfully by genuinely caring about each of his students. His enthusiasm and sunny disposition will be missed on campus."

Dr. Rupnow and his wife, Judy, plan to retire in the Raleigh-Durham area, where they will work part-time for a while before fully retiring in a few years.

Parting Wisdom from Our Retirees

Treasure the unity in faith and worldview that we share with the other students and faculty on this campus. Even after not seeing each other for many years, I can still talk to my fellow classmates from DMLC as if we had just talked yesterday, because we share that precious unity in our gracious Savior, Jesus. Those friendships will last into eternity.

Dr. Chip Rupnow

Continue to pray for the Church and for the workers that God sends out into a hostile world.

Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer

Stay in the Word. God uses his means of grace to talk to you, to counsel you, and to guide you. Refresh yourselves with nourishment from his Word.

Professor Earl Heidtke

Serving in the public ministry is truly an undeserved privilege bestowed on us by a gracious and loving Savior. Therefore, keep your focus squarely on Christ and what he has already done for you as your motivation for serving others.

Dr. James Grunwald

Continue to thank God for the many talents and blessings he has given you and the many opportunities he has given you to learn and grow not only academically, socially, and emotionally, but most importantly spiritually.

Professor Joyce Diels

Also Retiring at MLC

Pamela Heidtke DMLC '74, receptionist

George Schimmele, director of environmental services

Concluding Service at MLC

Tarah Beduze '16, ECLC lead teacher

Julius Buelow '12, Hebrew instructor

Isaac Crass WLS '15, tutor

David Roekle '15, admissions counselor

Announcing Alumni Luther Lands Tour!

Is a trip to the Luther Lands on your bucket list? Do you enjoy meeting new people, seeing old places, worshiping in unique spaces, and learning about our great heritage? If so, do we have a trip for you!

The MLC Alumni Association invites you to join President Mark Zarling, Professor Jim Danell, Professor Paul Koelpin, Professor Keith Wessel, and other members of the MLC family June 18-July 4, 2018, for an amazing European adventure.

Our plan calls for two buses (40 guests plus guides on each) with one originating in Frankfurt, Germany, while the other starts in Rome, Italy.

The Frankfurt group will spend 6 nights touring the Reformation sites of Eisenach, Erfurt, Eisleben, Mansfeld, Wittenberg, Leipzig, and Coburg.

The Rome group will explore the development of Western culture and Christianity, spending 2 nights each in Rome, Florence, and Venice.

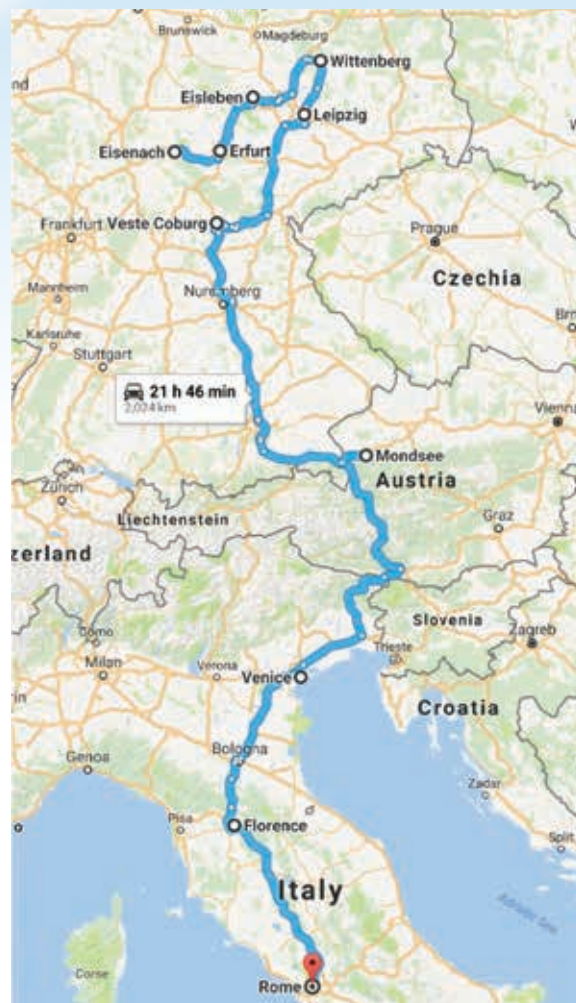
The groups will come together for 3 nights in the Salzkammergut area of the Austrian Alps as featured in *The Sound of Music* movie. In fact, the Schlosshotel in Mondsee where we will stay is an 8th-century renovated monastery that sits adjacent to the church used for the movie's wedding scene!

After Austria, the groups will continue in the opposite direction from which they started. At the end of the tour, those who flew into Frankfurt will fly home out of Rome, and those who flew into Rome will fly home out of Frankfurt.

You will love the Christian fellowship and daily worship, as well as the expert insights of MLC professors and local guides.

Costs will likely be \$4000-\$4500 per person based on double occupancy (including round-trip flights from Minneapolis, all hotels, admissions, transportation, guide services, and most meals). Learn more at mlc-wels.edu/alumni/tours.

All WELS members are eligible to attend. If you have questions or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact tour managers **Steve Balza** and **Michelle Gartner** in the MLC alumni office (alumni@mlc-wels.edu or 507-217-1731). Brochures will be sent out in August, and registration will open in early September. Based on early interest, we expect a quick sellout, so don't delay! Join the list today!



Prof. Jim Danell



Prof. Paul Koelpin



Prof. Keith Wessel



Pres. Mark Zarling



Wartburg Castle, Germany



Florence, Italy



Schlosshotel, Austria