

# IN FOCUS

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

SPRING 2017



## In This Issue...

Reformation 500

Professor Jim Unke Retires from  
Coaching After 34 Years

Making the Most of Our *KnightLife*

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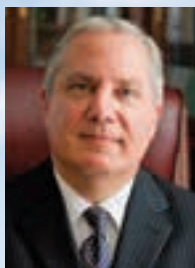
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# Grace. Faith. Scripture.



By MLC President Mark Zarling WLS '80

Grace. Faith. Scripture. The campus banners silently shout these three essential truths upon which a believer's confidence is cemented, truths all revealed and conveyed in Jesus the Christ. The banners will be up the entire calendar year. They are a not-so-subtle reminder of a 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance.

Grace. Faith. Scripture. Five centuries ago the Savior God

unleashed the Spirit's omnipotence through the Word of God upon a monk's mind and a sinner's soul. The living God cleared away confusion in that man's heart and empowered that sinner to be a spokesman for eternal truth.

Grace alone. Faith alone. Scripture alone. Christ alone. The Spirit worked convictions that filled Martin and changed his life. Those same convictions are etched on the outside four walls of the Chapel of the Christ.

We pray that the Spirit again unleash his omnipotence through the Word and etch those convictions also upon the hearts and souls of the campus family at MLC, and in so doing change lives.

This year is not simply an historical review of amazing events. This year is not just an occasion to have some special lectures and events to contemplate a spiritual heritage. It is a yearlong opportunity to pray. To pray petitions of gratitude to our Savior Jesus that he raised up a sinful human as an instrument of his Word to restore clarity to the preaching and teaching of the gospel. To pray petitions asking that the Savior continue the Spirit's breath of reformation upon each heart and soul at this place. To pray petitions that the reformation remain an ongoing reality in our hearts and souls. SDG

**Correction:** In the Fall 2016 issue of *InFocus*, we incorrectly identified a Northwestern College alumnus. The gentleman we identified as Bryan Schwarz is actually James Schulz, NWC Class of 1987, West Allis, Wisconsin.

On our cover: Coach Jim Unke with his 2012-2013 basketball team. See the story of Unke's retirement on pages 10-11. Photo by Sheree Danell.



These Reformation 500 banners were a gift from DMLC Class of 1961.

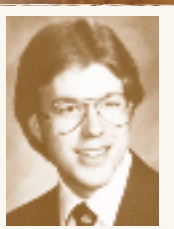
*MLC InFocus* is published by Martin Luther College Mission Advancement Office and is distributed free of charge to students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends. Comments are welcomed and should be directed to [gaugerlf@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:gaugerlf@mlc-wels.edu) or Laurie Gauger, MLC *InFocus*,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

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



All *InFocus* magazines are online at [mlc-wels.edu/publications](http://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](mailto:boardtl@mlc-wels.edu).

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



David D  
Reichel  
NWC 1982  
Madison WI



Phyllis A  
Westendorf  
DMLC 1972  
Bay City MI



Keith N  
Olmanson  
NWC 1952  
Watertown SD





## Many Blessings to MLC Midyear Graduates

Nine MLC education majors earned their diplomas at the December 15, 2016, commencement service. President Mark Zarling preached on Romans 8:28, "Your future in Christ—Only good, all the time!"

Vice President for Academics Dr. Jeff Wiechman conferred the degrees. *Pictured front row:* **Daniel Roemhildt** (Mt. Olive-Mankato MN)-Elementary Ed; **Lillian Busch** (Trinity-Woodbridge VA)-Educational Studies; **Abigail Petermann** (Crown of Life-West St. Paul)-Early Childhood Ed; **Rachel Trimmer** (Atonement-Parkville MD)-K-12 Instrumental and Vocal Music; **Richard Schmidt** (St. John-New Ulm MN)-Educational Studies; *back row:* **Travis Kretsch** (St. Paul-New Ulm MN)-K-12 Physical Education; **James Schlieper** (Christ the Lord-Brookfield WI)-Secondary Ed: Social Studies; **Josh Lindner** (St. Lucas-Milwaukee)-Secondary Ed: Communication Arts & Literature; **James Phelps** (St. Matthew-Janesville WI)-Educational Studies.

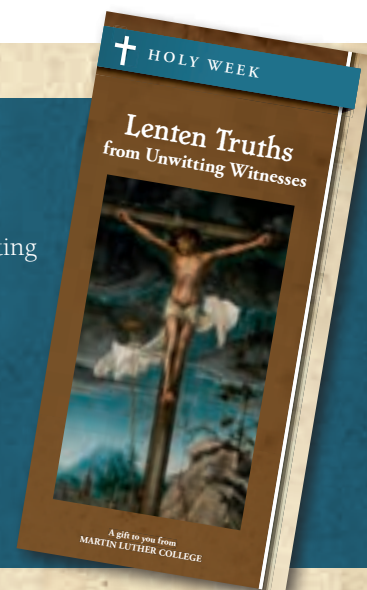
Three other graduates completed an additional degree, and three people earned certification in staff ministry or evangelism.

## Holy Week Devotions – Our Gift to You

*Lenten Truths from Unwitting Witnesses* is MLC's newest devotion book. Containing eight uplifting messages, for Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday, this beautiful book is enhanced by the artwork of Lucas Cranach, Reformation painter and friend of Martin Luther.

You may enjoy the devotions in hard copy, download them onto your device, or simply read them online.

The booklet will be available for ordering or online viewing after March 10 at [mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions](http://mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions).



**Naomi M  
Horn**  
MLC 2007  
Mazeppa MN



**Michael  
Kumwenda**  
MLC 1997  
Lilongwe, Malawi



**Charis  
Habeck**  
DMLC 1982  
Oshkosh WI



**Joseph  
Petersen**  
NWC 1942  
Searville IA

here on the

hill

CELEBRATE WITH US ...

REFORMATION 500

GRACE. FAITH. SCRIPTURE.



### CAMPUS WORSHIP



Minnesota District  
Reformation Service,  
October 29, 2017

### INFOCUS SERIES

"Martin Luther: Radical Reformer" by Professor Emeritus Arnold Koelpin

1. **Understanding Life:** *The place of religion in life*, Fall 2016
2. **Birds, Dogs, and Babies:** *The place of nature in life*, Spring 2017
3. **Education:** *The place of religion in our curriculum*, Summer 2017
4. **The Fine Art of Music:** *The place of liberal arts in our joy of life*, Fall 2017

### CAMPUS LECTURE SERIES

"The Lutheran Reformation: An Educational Movement"

1. **Educating Youth at the Time of the Lutheran Reformation:**  
Professor Emeritus Arnold Koelpin November 1, 2017
2. **Educating Pastors at the Time of the Lutheran Reformation:**  
Dr. John Brenner February 11, 2018
3. **Educating Society at the Time of the Lutheran Reformation:**  
Dr. Gottfried Herrmann April 15, 2018

### TOUR

An alumni tour of the Luther Lands  
is slated for summer 2018.  
(See more on page 25.)



### ART LECTURE



A special lecture  
preceded a visit to  
the exhibit at  
Minnesota Art  
Institute: "Martin  
Luther: Art and  
the Reformation."  
This field trip is  
complete, but you

can watch the archived lecture by  
Professor Emeritus Arnold Koelpin  
at [mlc-wels.edu/go/luther-exhibit](http://mlc-wels.edu/go/luther-exhibit).



Jonathan  
Tjernagel  
MLC 1997  
Cottage Grove MN



Kristina L.  
Zahn  
MLC 2002  
Maitland FL



Steven  
Towne  
DMLC 1987  
Saginaw MI



Tonya R.  
Fagan  
DMLC 1992  
Swartz Creek MI



While you're on campus, be sure to check these out:



### THE MARTIN LUTHER BRONZE STATUE

in the mall was a gift to the newly amalgamated Martin Luther College in 1995 from the Board of Control of Northwestern College. Forged in bronze at the Pante Studio in Ortisei, Italy, under the direction of the Conrad Schmitt Studios of New Berlin WI, the six-foot statue stands on a five-sided black granite base inscribed with quotations from Dr. Luther. The statue is one of a trio of bronze Luthers, the other two residing at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary-Mequon WI and Luther Preparatory School-Watertown WI.



### "DR. MARTIN LUTHER: FATHER OF THE REFORMATION"

is a seven-foot, 750-pound white oak statue in the the MLC Library entrance. Sculpted by German-born artist Georg Keilhofer (1934-2000), it was donated to DMLC in October, 1972, the 455th anniversary of the Reformation, in memory of Paul T. Schwan (1899-1969) by his wife, Alma, and their children.

**WITTENBERG DIORAMA:** Begun as a class project in 1970, this model of the city of Wittenberg, "Cradle of the Reformation," was constructed primarily by Mr. Theodore Pelzl with the assistance of students in Professor Emeritus Arnold Koelpin's course, Modern Church History & The Reformation, from 1970 to 1982. It was dedicated in 1983 to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Luther's birth. A revamping project is underway.



**Winfred  
Vatthauer**  
DMLC 1962  
Fairfax MN



**Karis M  
Kapler**  
MLC 2012  
Mountain Home AR



**Robert C  
Schmiel**  
NWC 1957  
Watertown WI



**Laurie  
Gauger**  
DMLC 1987  
Rockfield WI



here on the

hill



## This Hill Was Alive with *The Sound of Music*

All three shows of *The Sound of Music* sold out before the big November weekend even began, and audiences afterward were heard to say that MLC's production was the most fantastic rendition of the classic story they'd ever seen. Almost 50 students were involved, with children from the community playing the younger von Trapps. MLC's Forum stages four different productions a year.



## Marta von Trapp Visits the Hill

At the invitation of MLC's Aulic Committee, Marta von Trapp came to visit the hill. More specifically, it was the actress who played Marta in the original movie version of *The Sound of Music*. Debbie Turner spoke about working with Julie Andrews and spending months abroad as an 8-year-old movie star. She elaborated on how she got the part and how she continued her education, and then highlighted her favorite scenes.



## Now Live-Streaming Evening Chapel

We've been streaming morning chapel (10:15 Monday-Friday) for several years. Now we are also live-streaming evening chapel, where young men like senior education major **Benjamin Olson** (*Beautiful Savior-Spooner WI*, pictured) lead worship for the student body.

Worship with the students, and pray for these young men as they share the gospel and improve their speaking skills here at MLC—another step in their ministry training.

Evening worship is 7:15 pm Monday-Friday with an additional Compline service Monday nights at 10 pm. Services are also archived. Go to [mlc-wels.edu/streams](http://mlc-wels.edu/streams).



**Mark W. Murphy**  
DMLC 1992  
Appleton WI



**Kathryn Sauer**  
DMLC 1967  
Lake City MN



**Michael Maas**  
DMLC 1977  
Toledo OH



**Florence Schmidt**  
DMLC 1962  
Two Rivers WI





## WLC – MLC Winter Retreat *Another Success*

About 80 students from MLC and Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC), as well as campus leaders, met at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, for a weekend of Bible study, games, and conversations about Christian service. Themed “Selfless,” this was the second annual intercollegiate retreat.



## MLC Wind Symphony *Heads East in May*



The MLC Wind Symphony, under the direction of Instructor Erin Meissner, will pack their passports and travel to Toronto and Ottawa, Canada, with stops in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan along the way. The post-commencement tour includes visits to four high schools and three churches. Check out their schedule and plan to attend the concert nearest you. You can also follow the tour at [facebook.com/mlcwels](https://facebook.com/mlcwels). Daily posts will feature fun from the bus and sample songs from the concerts.

Sun, May 14	10:30 am	St. John-Nodine MN (worship)
Sun, May 14	7:00 pm	Shoreland LHS (full concert)
Mon, May 15	8:30 am	Shoreland LHS (chapel/mini-concert)
Mon, May 15	7:00 pm	Michigan LHS (full concert)
Tue, May 16	8:45 am	Michigan LHS (chapel)
Tue, May 16	7:00 pm	Michigan Luth Sem (full concert)
Wed, May 17	9:30 am	Michigan Luth Sem (chapel/mini-concert)
Wed, May 17	7:00 pm	Huron Valley LHS (full concert)
Thu, May 18	9:00 am	Huron Valley LHS (chapel/mini-concert)
Fri, May 19	7:00 pm	St. Paul-Ottawa ON (full concert)
Sun, May 21	11:00 am	Hope-Toronto ON (worship)



David P  
Strucely  
MLC 2012  
Dallas TX



Joan D  
Ohland  
DMLC 1952  
Gibbon MN



Donald  
Gosdeck  
DMLC 1967  
Kaukauna WI



Elizabeth  
Petermann  
DMLC 1982  
St. Paul MN



MLC music professors were proud to host the renowned Dr. Carl Schalk for a lecture before their Christmas concert December 3. From left: Professor Craig Hirschmann DMLC '84, Professor Adrian Smith '03, Dr. Schalk, Instructor Erin Meissner, Professor Grace Hennig DMLC '88, Dr. Wayne Wagner DMLC '72, and Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer DMLC '71.

## Renowned Lutheran Composer Delivers Address on Campus

Dr. Carl Schalk, noted Lutheran composer, author, and lecturer, gave a lecture in the Wittenberg Auditorium before the MLC Christmas concert December 3. In honor of the Reformation anniversary, Schalk presented *"Luther on Music After 500 Years: Paradigms of Praise Revisited."*

Dr. Schalk taught church music at Concordia-River Forest (now Concordia University Chicago, or CUC) from 1965 to 2004, guiding the development of the university's Master of Church Music degree program and helping establish the Center for Church Music, which holds many manuscripts of 20th-century composers of Lutheran church music.

He is well known for his own numerous choral compositions, several books, and more than 100 hymn tunes and carols published in Christian hymnals. The MLC choirs sang three Schalk compositions as part of their Christmas concert program that weekend.

- "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"  
(text: Jaroslav Vajda)
- "There Is No Rose of Such Virtue"  
(text: anonymous)
- "Before the Marvel of This Night"  
(text: Jaroslav Vajda)

Dr. Schalk has had a major influence on WELS worship in many ways. The director of the WELS Commission on Worship, **Bryan Gerlach** WLS '83, studied with him while earning his master's degree in church music at Concordia, and six MLC music professors can claim the same honor: Professors **David Bauer** DMLC '78, **Grace Hennig** DMLC '88, **Edward Meyer** (emeritus) DMLC '58, **Kermit Moldenhauer** DMLC '71, **John Nolte** (emeritus) DMLC '68, and **Ronald Shilling** (emeritus) DMLC '64.

Professors Hennig and Moldenhauer were Dr. Schalk's advisees at Concordia. Professor Joyce Schubkegel taught at Concordia shortly before Schalk began his tenure there, and when she studied with Dr. Richard Hillert at Concordia in the 90s, she and Dr. Schalk developed a close friendship that continues today.

Professor Hennig, who arranged the talk, spoke about the centrality of Christ in Schalk's music and ministry: "At the heart of everything Dr. Schalk teaches about Lutheran worship is the phrase *Viva vox evangelii*—the living voice of the gospel. For Luther, this is the message that must be beautifully proclaimed and beautifully received."

Hennig mused that perhaps a young MLC student in the audience would have heard Dr. Schalk for the first time that day and then been motivated "to take up the torch, and do the digging and thinking and asking about Martin Luther and music."

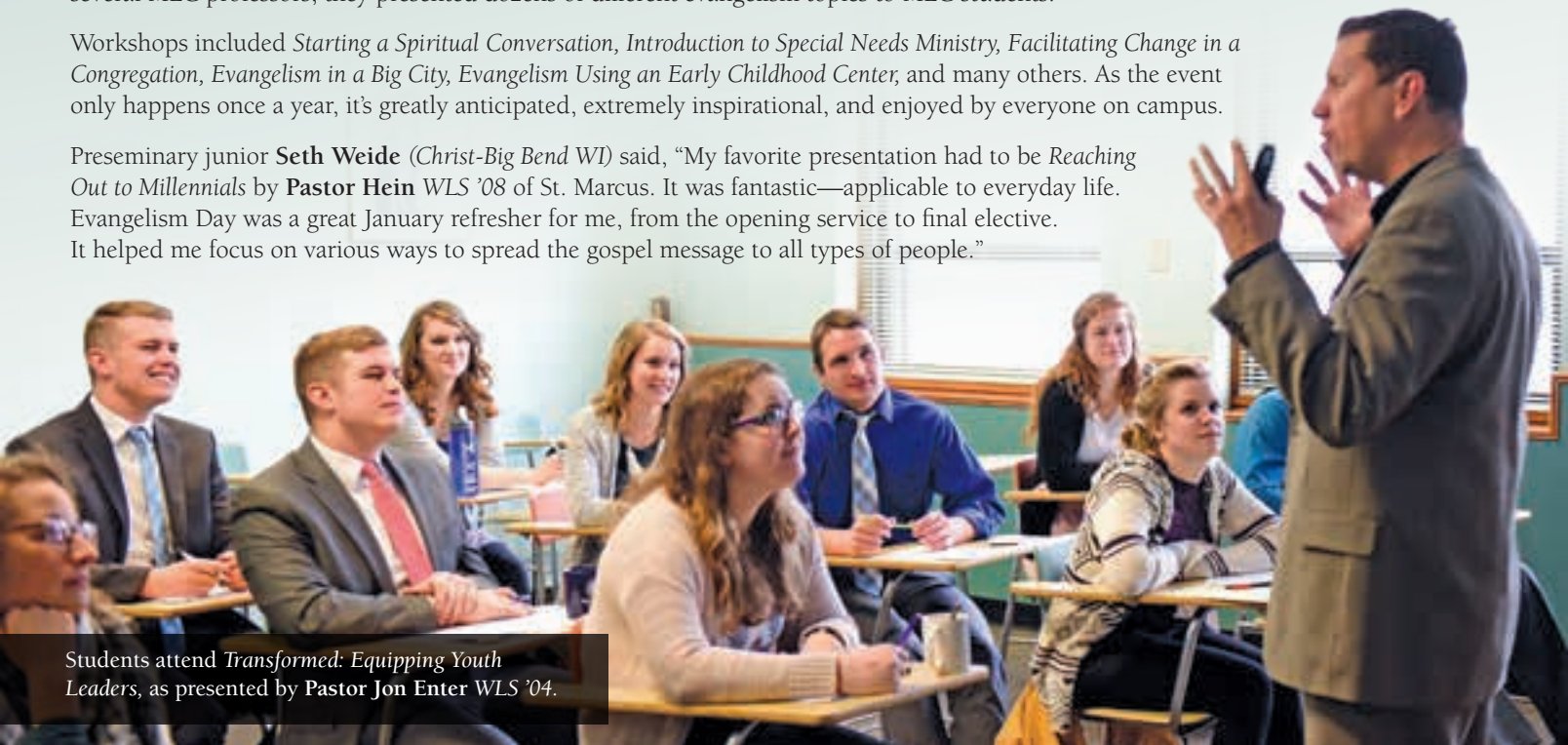


## Evangelism Day *Inspires and Refreshes*

On a wintry Wednesday in January, speakers from all over the country braved the ice and snow to make their way to New Ulm. Joining several MLC professors, they presented dozens of different evangelism topics to MLC students.

Workshops included *Starting a Spiritual Conversation*, *Introduction to Special Needs Ministry*, *Facilitating Change in a Congregation*, *Evangelism in a Big City*, *Evangelism Using an Early Childhood Center*, and many others. As the event only happens once a year, it's greatly anticipated, extremely inspirational, and enjoyed by everyone on campus.

Preseminary junior **Seth Weide** (Christ-Big Bend WI) said, "My favorite presentation had to be *Reaching Out to Millennials* by **Pastor Hein** WLS '08 of St. Marcus. It was fantastic—applicable to everyday life. Evangelism Day was a great January refresher for me, from the opening service to final elective. It helped me focus on various ways to spread the gospel message to all types of people."



Students attend *Transformed: Equipping Youth Leaders*, as presented by **Pastor Jon Enter** WLS '04.

## Call for *Thalassa* Submissions

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

Past winners:

- 2007 Kristina Wessel, Dominican Republic
- 2008 Rachel Kionka, Malawi
- 2009 Rachel Meyer, Southeast Asia
- 2010 Gretchen Schmiede, Southeast Asia
- 2011 Amber Schlomer, Southeast Asia
- 2012 Paul Kelm, Czech Republic
- 2013 Maria Reese, Malawi
- 2014 Chris Plugger, Zambia
- 2015 Sara Schmeling, Russia
- 2016 Johannah Crass, Antigua

For submission guidelines, go to [mlc-wels.edu/thalassa](http://mlc-wels.edu/thalassa).

**Deadline: April 30, 2017**

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



**2016 WINNER: JOHANNAH CRASS**  
*"Robes of White"*



## Professor Jim Unke Retires from Coaching

This winter, change came to the Martin Luther College men's basketball program, as **Greg Holzhueter '10** took over for **Jim Unke DMLC '83**, who had served in that role for 19 seasons.

It marked the end of a 34-year coaching career for Unke that started at East Fork Lutheran High School in 1980, and included stops at St. Paul-New Ulm, Lakeside LHS, and MLC. During that 34-year career, Unke compiled 380 wins.

His MLC resume includes 164 wins (96 in UMAC play), three UMAC Coach of the Year Awards, two regular season conference championships, and one UMAC Tournament title. His high school coaching career included one state championship, three conference championships, and three Coach of the Year awards.

During the 2015-16 season, Unke decided he would step out of his role as men's basketball coach at the end of the season to put a greater focus on his job as the athletic director at MLC, a job he has held since 1997. It was a difficult decision, but one he felt necessary.

"I absolutely love coaching," Unke said. "I really hate to see it end, but with the responsibilities as the AD growing, something had to give."

During his tenure as the athletic director, Unke has helped the Knights remain competitive in 16 varsity sports and has also played a pivotal role in the expansion of the school's athletic facilities, including the opening of the school's new soccer facility and baseball field in the last ten years.

One year into his retirement from coaching, Unke is very thankful for the chance he had to impact the lives of so many

young men throughout his career. "It was a privilege to coach here for 19 years. The mission of our college puts athletics in a different perspective compared to many we compete against, but also creates an environment for competition that is unique and unmatched anywhere else. I am very thankful to all the young men I've had the opportunity to coach."

Holzhueter, a former player under Unke who still holds the MLC records for assists (370) and steals (170), took over the men's basketball program this season after three seasons at the helm of the Bethany Lutheran College men's basketball program. The challenge of replacing his former coach is one he looks forward to in the coming years.

"Taking over for my coach at MLC, Coach Jim Unke, is an honor and a privilege," Holzhueter said. "I have the utmost respect for him as a coach and a person. Taking over the program is also a responsibility I don't take lightly, because I have a very clear understanding of what Coach Unke built over the last 19 years as head coach of MLC's men's basketball program."

"My understanding comes from having played for Coach Unke for four years and having coached against him for a total of five years," he continued. "His teams had a reputation of playing with intensity, heart, and toughness. He taught his players, including me, the value of hard work and competition without ever having to say a word about it. My biggest priority in taking over for Coach Unke is maintaining the culture that he built during his 19-year tenure, because that culture is what has made MLC men's basketball so special."



Many former players joined the current team to celebrate Coach Jim Unke's retirement from coaching.



**Jacob M Rothe**  
MLC 2012  
Watertown WI



**Heidi Keibel**  
DMLC 1987  
Concord CA



**Arnold List**  
DMLC 1982  
Norborne MO



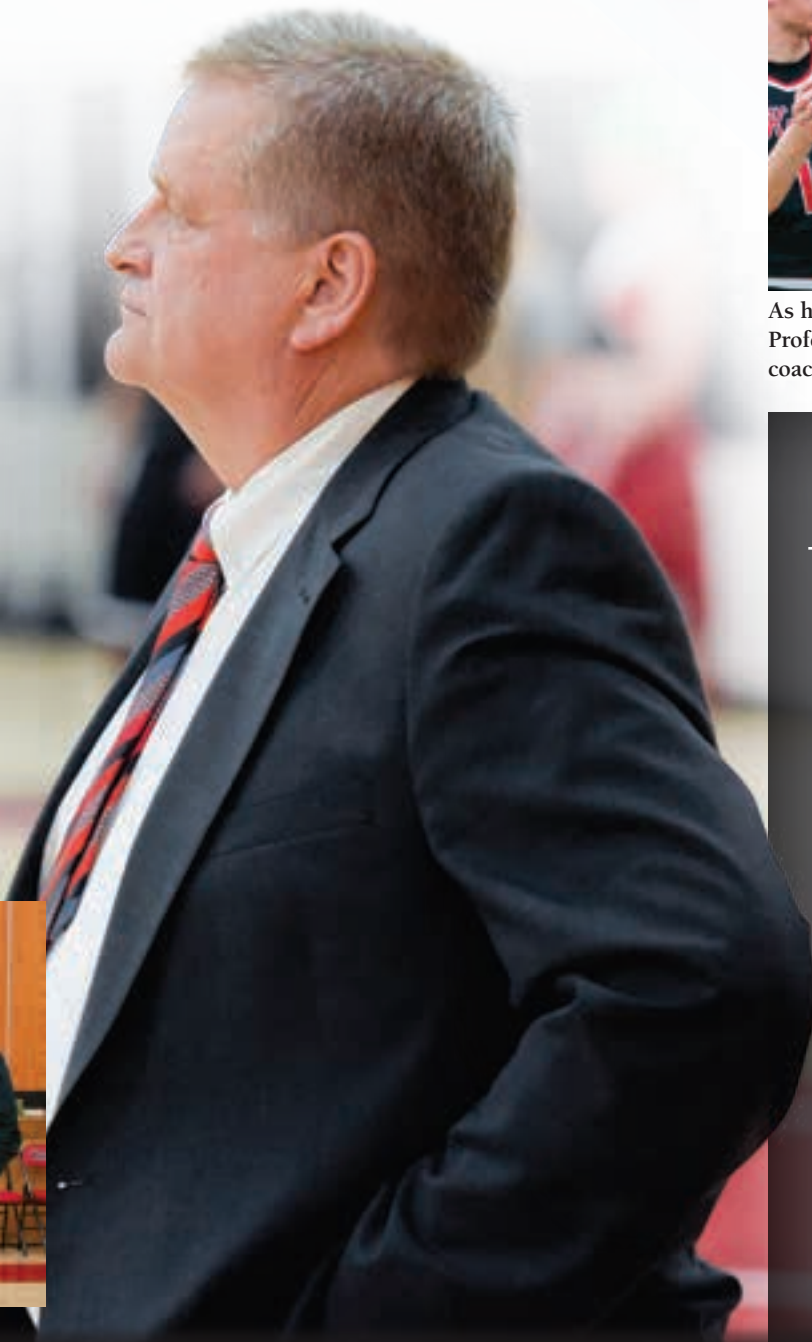
**Candice L Laurin**  
MLC 2002  
Manitowoc WI





By Sports Information Director Mike Gibbons

# After 34 Years



As he retires from coaching after 34 years, 19 of which were at MLC, Professor Jim Unke receives congratulations from the new basketball coach—and his former player—Greg Holzhueter '10.

## MLC TOPS CONFERENCE IN ACADEMIC HONORS

The Upper Midwest Athletic Conference announced its fall sport academic honors. As in many past seasons,

**MLC finished the season with the most student-athletes named Academic All-Conference:**

92 of them in seven fall sports, eight more than the next highest-ranking college.

Individuals who earn a 3.5 or better grade point average (GPA) during their respective semesters of competition are recognized with the prestigious honor.

**MLC also ranked #1 in team GPA in four fall sports:**

- women's soccer (3.76)
- volleyball (3.71)
- football (3.16)
- men's soccer (3.15)



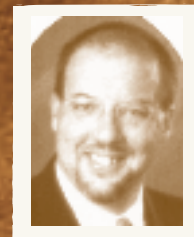
**Carl Pagel**  
NWC 1962  
Green Bay WI



**Dinah Wiederich**  
MLC 1997  
Girard OH



**Douglas Lange**  
NWC 1977  
La Crosse WI



**Michael J. Mundstock**  
MLC 2002  
Waukegan IL



# Is It Too Late for Me to Be a



**Matt Swanson** was a junior math major at Iowa State University when he realized his passion was more Scripture than square roots.

"I slowly began to realize I had a great passion for spending time in God's Word and the conversations that my faith started with friends.

I was also heavily influenced by Pastor James Hein, who was at my home church at the time, Resurrection and Life-Rochester MN, and by Pastor Martin Hoesch at Bethany-Ames IA (ELS), who was my pastor at college.

"I graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics in December 2014 and spent the next eight months working for a teaching and tutoring organization in Rochester as I waited to start school at MLC."

Swanson says MLC's most difficult challenge is also one of its best qualities: "They expect a lot from you. Students are expected to show up and work hard every day. MLC does a great job of holding us to those standards that are expected of responsible Christians and members of a community."

Matt plans to graduate in May and matriculate at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in the fall. He's trusting God with the details of his future, of course, but he thinks he might be interested in helping with a campus ministry someday. "After spending almost four years at a public university, I made many friends of different life backgrounds, all of whom are in need of God's grace and salvation, just like I am. Being able to share that message with another generation of students would be very special to me."



## First Sergeant Roger Emmons

is hoping to answer to Pastor Emmons in a few years.

After eight years in the National Guard, 21 years in the US Army, and a bachelor's degree in human resource management, Emmons is back in the classroom at MLC, studying Greek and Hebrew, philosophy and Christian rhetoric as part of his certification for enrollment at seminary.

"The military has a different style of learning than college," he says. "So being able to sit in the classroom and reteach myself was a challenge. The best part, though, is just the day-to-day life at MLC, especially daily chapel. I was concerned, being twice as old as everyone, whether I would fit in. But I have made some wonderful friends."

Emmons' second-career journey began when he was the chairman for his congregation at King of Kings-Alexandria, Louisiana. When his pastor accepted a call to another church, their church became one of five in the district with a vacancy. With so many

pulpits open on Sunday mornings, Dr. E. Allen Sorum from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary gave a crash course to several men on sermon writing.

"I really enjoyed the opportunities I had to share God's message," Emmons says. "I served both our congregation and the satellite preaching station we had established. At the time I was working for a car rental company and didn't like the sales aspect of the job."

"So one morning I was doing my devotion from Isaiah 42, and I realized I did not have to worry about the congregation in Louisiana. God would take care of his faithful and provide them a way to be fed. It was not all up to me. That was in late June 2015. We visited MLC in July and moved here in August."

Roger will graduate in May and be eligible for enrollment at the seminary. "As a former drill sergeant I hope to be able to be a strong leader within the church," he says. "But a good strong leader is one who serves."

Roger and his wife, Tammi, have five children and six grandchildren living in Georgia, Illinois, Texas, Wisconsin, and Korea.

**The Seminary Certification Program** at Martin Luther College provides an opportunity for men who are older than traditional college students to prepare for WELS pastoral ministry.

Students who successfully complete the program and demonstrate appropriate spiritual, academic, and personal attributes are recommended to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) to continue preparation for the pastoral ministry.

Students who hold a bachelor's degree before they enroll need two years to complete their certification requirements. Students who do not hold a bachelor's degree usually need three years.

Professor Daniel Balge, academic dean for presemnary studies, tailors a certification plan to each student's background, giving priority to religion and biblical language courses.



**Adam M Frey**  
MLC 2007  
New Carlisle OH



**Ruth Leverson**  
DMLC 1962  
Northwood IA



**Wilbur Hatzung**  
DMLC 1947  
Hartford WI



**Shaun Kabelowsky**  
MLC 1997  
Milwaukee WI



# Pastor? Seminary Certification at MLC



**Adam Lambrecht's** degrees in English and speech from Iowa State University were a ten-year-old memory when he decided to go back to school to be a pastor.

He and his wife, Sarah, had ministry experience with Kingdom Workers and on the Navajo reservation, and Adam had served as staff minister at several congregations in New Mexico and Colorado when they opted to move the family to New Ulm so Adam could pursue seminary certification.

Going back to college carried challenges. Uprooting the family. Homework. Financial burdens. And a move back to the slightly artificial world of campus life. "One of the things I had loved most about ministry," Adam says, "was talking with non-Christians who were hurting or bitter or lost, sharing my faith with them and reaching out with the gospel to them. And all of a sudden, that wasn't my main job anymore. My main job at MLC was to go home and study. That was tough."

Now an MLC graduate and a middler at the seminary, Adam often thinks of those people he served as a staff minister. And while he makes a point not to be "that guy" in class—the one who always raises his hand and says, "Well, when I was a staff minister . . ."—there's no doubt he has experiences the younger students do not. "Once in our Education class, we started talking about how parents discipline their children. Since no one else in my class had children, I was able to bring a different perspective to that discussion—as a parent and as a former staff minister who gave encouragement to other parents. It was interesting."

Adam is also quick to point out the many blessings of his studies at both MLC and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. "Not a day goes by where I'm not thankful," he says. "We're closer to family, and we've been able to send our kids to Lutheran schools. And we've been continually amazed by how God has provided for us financially. A check sent by a friend in Colorado who tells us we should take our kids out for ice cream. A congregation that provides us with gift cards and Christmas presents for our kids."

A complete stranger who calls up the seminary and asks if she can give some money to a needy student. We've been blown away by the kindness and generosity of God's people."

As every day passes, Adam is more excited to finish his schooling. May will bring him a vicar assignment for 2017-18. Then it's back to seminary for senior year in 2018-19, and finally, an assignment to his own congregation, God-willing, in May 2019.

He knows he'll be a 40-year-old rookie pastor. But he hopes that his life experience will color his ministry with compassion and insight. "I hope my experiences among the Navajo, or having my wife diagnosed with cancer or having a miscarriage, or wrestling with the adjustments that come from being a 'non-traditional' student have helped me develop a broad understanding of how life is sometimes different and difficult and even weird for people. And having learned what it means to have God provide for us in so many different ways in so many different places, I hope I'm able to encourage others in a very personal and meaningful way what it means when God promises, 'Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.'"

Adam speaks at Friends of the Seminary Day.



Adam and Sarah Lambrecht with their four children enjoy his graduation from MLC in 2015.

From 2006 to 2016, 27 men graduated from MLC's Seminary Certification Program.

If you are married and/or older than 21 and you'd like to learn more about pursuing the pastoral ministry, please contact Professor Sorum (sorum@wls.wels.net) at WLS to get started. The faculties of WLS and MLC will work together to help you through the process.



**Arvon E. Peter**  
DMLC 1957  
Norfolk NE



**Charlotte Sauer**  
DMLC 1942  
New Ulm MN



**David R. Enter**  
DMLC 1972  
Nicollet MN



**Tim Kemnitz**  
NWC 1987  
Eldorado WI



## Can Lutheran Schools *Reimagine the Principal Position?*

By **Dr. John Meyer** DMLC '87, Director of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education



WELS is attempting a radical shift in the way it approaches the Lutheran school principal position. Termed the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Lutheran Principal Initiative, its goal is twofold: 1) to fully prepare experienced teachers to be principals *before* their first principal call; and 2) to provide the level of administrative time and compensation needed for success. This initiative is a completely different way of thinking about the Lutheran school principal.

**Historically, new Lutheran school principals are called because they demonstrate potential for leadership**

based upon spiritual maturity, organization ability, and personality. These first-time principals usually have no preparation in principal skills and may even lack teaching experience. Most new principals are full- or nearly full-time classroom instructors and are expected to do administrative duties on the side. They may receive a slight pay bump symbolic of their role as lead teacher. These historical practices imply that the principal position is not very difficult, time-consuming, or important. But experience and research tell us just the opposite. The principal is the key to school success,\* especially in small schools. The position is highly complex,\* requires knowledge and skills that cannot be learned through experience alone,\* and takes a lot of time\*—more time than most Lutheran principals get.\*

It's not surprising, then, that principals are under a lot of stress. A national principal survey revealed that 75% say

the job is becoming too complex, with 70% reporting it has changed substantially in the last five years.\* WELS principals overwhelmingly agree that the time (81%), training (67%), and compensation (58%) they have been given is inadequate.\*

**Under these circumstances, Lutheran principal vacancies are increasing.**

The reactionary response has been to double-down on the same practices that got us into this situation—recruit more teachers without principal training to fill the need. Struggling schools unable to attract veteran teachers request novice teachers be assigned as their principals. This historical approach places the most important school position, in often very challenging circumstances, into the hands of unprepared leaders—putting schools and principals at risk.

Unfortunately, when principals and their schools struggle, the tendency is to blame the individual for not doing, or not knowing how to do, his job. Such criticism is misplaced when the school has appointed an unqualified person to do a task without the necessary time to do it. The surprising thing is not that some principals and schools fail; it's that some survive.

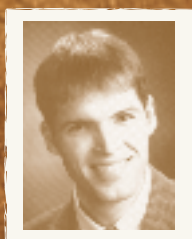
Lutheran principals and schools deserve better if they are to thrive. Principals must be trained *before* they assume their duties. They need time away from teaching to carry out their principal duties, and their compensation should fairly reflect the necessary level of training and the scope of responsibility. If Lutheran schools reimagine the



**Benjamin J Hoff**  
MLC 2007  
Livonia MI



**Cheryl Loomis**  
DMLC 1977  
Milwaukee WI



**Jamie Brei**  
MLC 1997  
Belvidere IL



**Diane K Lecker**  
DMLC 1972  
Appleton WI



principal position in this way, there will be no shortage of qualified people to lead. Lutheran principals and teachers reported that if principals are given adequate time, training, and compensation, many more are willing to be one.\*

## If Lutheran schools can reimagine the principal position, they will thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### What does a reimagined Lutheran principal position look like?

**Training:** In addition to possessing leadership characteristics, all Lutheran principals must be given the necessary understandings and skills *before* they assume their duties. These characteristics, understandings, and skills have been identified\* and are outlined in WELS Principal Standards. The Commission on Lutheran Schools and Martin Luther College have developed a three-year training program for veteran teachers to complete while teaching to fully meet the principal standards. A cohort of 15 veteran teachers is being formed right now to begin preparation, with similar cohorts needed annually.

**Time:** Schools need to structure the principal position for success. The WELS has developed and approved a formula for determining a reasonable amount of administrative release time (ART) during the school day for teaching principals. The principal needs a minimum of one hour of ART each week for every 7.5 students in the school. District presidents have been authorized to monitor administrative time when a school requests principal candidates for a call.\*

**Compensation:** Principals and congregations generally feel uncomfortable discussing levels of compensation. But a report to the 2015 synod convention acknowledged that principal compensation plays a role in the difficulty to attract qualified principals,\* and 58% of WELS principals report their salary is not commensurate with their duties.\* A sense of fairness suggests the salary should be in keeping with the position's importance and compensate candidates for the money they invest in training. The 2017 synod convention will consider the appropriate level of compensation for principals, and all schools are urged to follow it.

**The 21st-Century Lutheran Principal Initiative makes sense**, and it's simple. It represents a proactive approach to a growing crisis, but crises often foster reactive and habitual approaches. Breaking a habit can be painful and seem impossible. It requires commitment and sacrifices. Schools will need to dedicate the resources to structure the principal's time and compensation for success. Parents will need to pay more in tuition. Veteran teachers will need to heed the call to prepare for leadership by investing time and money in training. District presidents will need to work with schools and congregations to structure their principal positions for success and use only qualified candidates on call lists. None of the above can happen without God's blessing. But, if Lutheran schools can reimagine the principal position, they will thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Reprinted from *Issues in Lutheran Education*  
[blogs.mlc-wels.edu/wels-educator](https://blogs.mlc-wels.edu/wels-educator)

*\*Please see the online blog for explanatory tables, in-text citations, bibliography, and readers' comments.*

## The 21st-Century Lutheran Principal Initiative requires the cooperation of many stakeholders.

**Step 1: District presidents** encourage all schools to meet or exceed synod-adopted guidelines for ART and compensation.

**Step 2: CLS** recruits cohorts of 15 through Leadership Candidate Training (beginning in 2017).

**Step 3: MLC** completes the cohort training in years two and three through the Master of Science in Educational Administration degree, and seeks funding to award up to 50% tuition scholarships.

**Step 4: The COP and CLS** develop contingency plans to support schools with emergency principal vacancies.

**Step 5: District presidents** eventually develop call lists of principal-credentialed people for schools that meet or exceed the synod-adopted guidelines for ART and compensation.



**Joshua M. Roth**  
MLC 2002  
Yakima WA



**Cathy Szelag**  
DMLC 1977  
Niles IL



**Roger Kobleske**  
NWC 1967  
Kenosha WI



**James Connell**  
NWC 1977  
Downers Grove IL

# MAKING THE MOST OF OUR KNIGHT *Life*



## KNIGHT *Life* SPECIAL

*These six pages, adapted from KnightWatch magazine, are targeted at high school students who may be considering ministerial training at MLC. Check out the entire magazine at [mlc-wels.edu/go/knightlife2017](http://mlc-wels.edu/go/knightlife2017).*

### *Aaron* MARKGRAF

*Winnebago Lutheran Academy*

*Senior / Elementary Ed*

*Soccer, Student Ambassador, Event Team, KnightVision broadcasting, Children's Theater, Thank-a-thon Committee, Männerchor, piano, intramurals*

**I've tried to make the most of my four years** here, getting involved in as many ways as I can—hosting the Talent Show . . . serving as a Student Ambassador . . . being in the cast of the Children's Theater production, *The Ugly Duckling*. . . singing in a men's a cappella group with a few friends . . . writing skits for the Talent Show . . . being on the MLC Day Thank-a-thon Committee, where we thanked donors for helping us with our tuition costs . . . serving on MLC's Event Team. And soccer has been an incredible blessing. I got to play a sport I love with a bunch of guys who love Jesus and love soccer. These have all been fun ways for me to work on my organization, communication, and people skills.

I've also been involved with KnightVision broadcasting, broadcasting and commentating sporting events at MLC. It means a lot when people come up to me on Parents' Day and tell me how much they appreciate me as the "voice of Knights sports." That's a title I never thought I'd have, but it's been a lot of fun holding it!

My advice for high school students is this: Remember Paul's words in 1 Corinthians that can be summed up in this familiar saying: "God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called." Serving God in his church is such a tremendous honor and blessing. While you can serve the Lord in whatever career path you choose, MLC provides you with a great education in a small campus family that prepares you for a lifetime of service in his church. No matter what your gifts are, there is a place for you in the body of Christ. MLC will help you realize those gifts and mold you into a true servant.



# PASTORS-IN-TRAINING: PREPARING FOR PARISH LIFE



If you're thinking about becoming a pastor, your four years of study at MLC will include Bible, doctrine, Greek and Hebrew, a non-biblical language, history, English, science, math, music, and PE. You'll join other brothers who share your goal—the privilege of serving the Savior through a noble calling he himself established. And you'll encourage each other on this journey as you grow spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and socially.

From MLC, you'll go on to enroll at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, where you will complete your pastoral training and be eligible for assignment to the parish, pulpit, and pews God has waiting for you.

## *Carl* BOEDER

*Minnesota Valley LHS*

**Senior / Preseminary Studies**

*Forum Board president, College Choir president, Wind Symphony, Jazz Band, RA, teaching assistant, Daylight USA, organ, intramurals, waiter*

**I gave chapel for the first time** in fall 2016. It was nerve-wracking, of course, but it was also an excellent chance to learn and receive encouragement from classmates and friends.

Participating in chapel is wonderful too, of course. It's not only a worship opportunity, but it's also such a great resource for us as future ministers of the gospel. To hear the message in many different ways from many different, excellent leaders is honestly invaluable.

I actually started at MLC with majors in secondary instrumental music and elementary education. During my Early Field Experience my sophomore year, I realized that although I enjoyed leading music, it wasn't the only thing I wanted to do. My parents reminded me that I could be asked to lead or perform music as a pastor too, and they helped me see that I have gifts to be a pastor that might not otherwise be used as a music teacher.

It's been a busy transition, to say the least. I'll be attending MLC for five years, with credits on credits and several co-curriculars filling my schedule to the brim. This semester has been the hardest, challenging me with three different languages—Greek, Hebrew, and German—at once. I wouldn't have it any other way!

# TEACHERS-IN-TRAINING: PREPARING FOR A **LIFE OF**



## *Jason* ZWEIFEL

*Lakeside LHS*

**Senior / Elementary Ed & Secondary Spanish**

*Football, student football coach, MLC Fitness Center supervisor, Männerchor, piano, Daylight, intramurals*

**Last year I was blessed to receive an emergency call** to teach middle school at Trinity-Neenah, Wisconsin. The education courses at MLC did a great job in preparing me to teach, but nothing could fully prepare me for the challenges and blessings that came from having my own classroom of students. The skills and lessons I learned have not only positively changed the type of teacher I will be in the future, but changed who I am as a person.

More important, though, the relationships with students, parents, and other teachers that I developed will be with me for the rest of my life. I look forward to finishing my degree so I can return to the classroom!

It was Pastor Clark Schultz who played a huge part in my decision to come to MLC. During religion classes at Lakeside, he made MLC real for me. Through his stories, he gave a fun

and enriching snapshot of MLC that inspired me to give it a try. More important, though, he imparted a ministry mindset that encouraged me to explore the possibility of becoming a full-time called worker. One of his favorite phrases was “You’ll have that in your ministry.” I guess I took that to heart.

At MLC, Christ truly is the center of campus life. Nobody here is perfect, but the Christian friendships I’ve developed have been invaluable in strengthening my faith.

College can be a defining time in any young adult’s life. When I reflect on how I’ve changed since my first year, it’s incredible. Throughout my time at MLC I have learned, matured, expanded my worldview, created memories, formed lifelong friendships, and, most important, grown closer to Christ.



Dreaming of life in a classroom all your own? MLC is the only college that prepares you for both state licensure and synod certification, qualifying you to teach in one of the hundreds of WELS preschools, elementary schools, and high schools. Your years of study here will include gen eds, theology, and professional education courses geared specifically to the level and content area you hope to teach.

MLC also provides lots of experiential opportunities, including an Early Field Experience (EFE) your first year, a get-your-feet-wet week during spring break where you plan and teach a lesson to grade school students. Sophomore and junior EFEs build on that experience, and then you jump into a public school classroom for a clinical experience. By senior year you're ready to student teach in a WELS school. It's all meant to stretch you, boosting your competence and your confidence as you prepare for the teaching life.



## *Sarah* KOELPIN

*Fox Valley LHS*

*Student Senate, volleyball, basketball, track, student basketball coach, Spanish teaching assistant, RA, piano, waitress*

**I was privileged to fulfill my elementary student teaching** at St. Paul-Onalaska, Wisconsin. My 23 seventh graders taught me more than I could've ever taught them. (I hope they're not reading this because they still think I taught them a lot.) As most typical middle school children, they were crazy, rambunctious, loud, and super wonderful! Those preteens, along with my classroom supervisor, made me realize that I use the word 'super' way too much, that life will never be totally organized, that playing pranks can end badly, and that 10 weeks is too short a time to be with such cool kids.

I learned that being a teacher means telling jokes that aren't funny, throwing away the lesson plan sometimes, and taking time to talk with your kids about life. It means staying up late in the school kitchen to make cookies for class and being the person that fails the most—just to show that nobody's perfect. And most important, it means being the person who gets to tell them about Jesus every single day, not only in religion class, but in every situation that life throws at us.

# DAYLIGHT: A TASTE OF LIFE OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE



Many MLC students add another layer to their ministry training by leaving the campus bubble and immersing themselves in a different congregation, different culture, even a different country. Some students study abroad. Some teach abroad. Some assist a congregation in New York or California, Alaska or Florida, for a week. Some intern for an entire summer. The choices are yours. We call this Daylight International and Daylight USA, and it's all part of your preparation for your life's work.

*Taylor* WEBER

**Kettle Moraine LHS**

**Junior / Elementary Ed & Secondary Spanish**

*Volleyball, Spanish tutor, Daylight, piano,  
director of Turner Hall Gymnastics in New Ulm*

**I studied abroad in Santiago, Chile**, for five weeks in May and June of 2015 with Professor Paul Bases' Spanish immersion program. It was the experience of a lifetime. Along with grammar-intensive classes, I went sightseeing and horseback riding in the Andes Mountains, experienced Chilean asados (barbeques), and ate ice cream at Emporio La Rosa, one of the top 25 ice cream shops in the world! (That's what I am doing in the picture!) It was crazy how much the environment assisted my Spanish fluency. No textbook could teach me the culture in which I became immersed.

**This summer, I'll travel to Mahahual, Mexico, to teach English** as a Second Language to poverty-stricken students. I'll be in Mexico for five weeks with another teacher. Five teams of teens from St. Paul-New Ulm will come down to Mexico, one group per week, to assist us. We'll incorporate God's Word into all we do and even teach Bible stories in Spanish. It will be an excellent opportunity for me to practice my Spanish skills and ultimately to share the love of Christ.



# ADDING A LITTLE DRAMA TO YOUR KNIGHT *Life*



*Alli* DORN

*Illinois LHS*

*Senior / Early Childhood Ed*

*College Choir, Wind Symphony, Daylight, RA, St. Paul's worship band, intramurals*

**Forum has been a huge part of my life at MLC.** I was in four shows, helped produce two Children's Theater shows, and was the Forum treasurer for a year and a half. And this fall I was blessed to play the part of Maria in *The Sound of Music*. It's funny to think that a week before auditions I decided I wasn't going to audition. A friend of mine convinced me that I should still try out. So I decided to go big and audition for Maria! I'm so grateful I did, because it was the experience of a lifetime. My favorite part was running around stage singing 'Do Re Me' with the children. It was hard to do because it takes a lot of breath, but the energy of the children helped me through it. I miss the kids so much!

I grew so much throughout the show. I learned to have a lot more confidence in myself. I got better at taking constructive criticism. And I learned how to work with people who are nothing like me, which helped me learn how to communicate in different ways. Time management was a huge thing too, since I had practice every night from 6 until 9 or later.

In my academic life, I'm an early childhood major, and the experiences I've had at MLC have only reaffirmed my love for early childhood education. The professors really have a passion for teaching. Through their courses I realized how important early childhood is. And since I took an administration course and worked with an ECE director in Lake Crystal during my clinical, I can now see myself as a director at a center someday. I'm not sure where God will send me, but I do know that I'm ready for whatever he'll throw at me. I'm anxious to see what he has in store for my future.

## 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

# Birds, Dogs, and Babies

Martin Luther, a nature lover? Absolutely. The radical nature of Martin Luther's reform is intimately tied up with highlighting Jesus' work of redemption. Creator and Redeemer are one in essence. In nature, the Triune God is at work. The Wittenberg reformer deeply appreciates God's creation and Christian attitudes toward woodlands and fields. Nature is “God's mask,” not God's masquerade. Under the cover of nature, Luther sees God at work.

In the woods, Luther saluted the birds: *“Good morning, theologians—you wake and sing, but I, an old fool, know less than you and worry over everything instead of simply trusting in the heavenly Father's care.”* The earthy outlook had an upbeat application. *“We are the dawn of a new era, for we are beginning to recover the knowledge of the external world that we lost through the fall of Adam. We now observe creatures properly.”*

Birds in flight help us observe God's work beneath the surface. *“Pious people look upon birds and flowers filled with wonder, and learn from both to say: ‘If God does such fine things for his creatures, will he not clothe and feed me?’”*

Yet noting how birds fly away when we approach, he also was led to comment, *“These birds lack faith. They do not know how glad I am to have them here nor that I would let no harm be done them. Thus do we act toward God, who loves us and who has given his Son for us.”* Despite all, these same birds remain objects of God's abundant care. *“No one is able to calculate the wealth God spends feeding the birds.”*

Even common acts such as reproduction caught the Reformer's eye. He noted how our sinful break from the Creator has diminished the radical beauty of God's gift of procreation. *“The ungodly won't see the glory of God; in fact, they can't even recognize present gifts because God overwhelms us so much with them. See how well a little fish multiplies, for one produces probably a thousand.”*

*“Consider the birds,”* he muses, *“how chastely their reproduction takes place! . . . Look how the little chick is hidden in the egg! If we had never seen such an egg and one were brought from Shangri-La, we'd be startled and amazed. And all the philosophers couldn't offer an explanation for these creatures. Only Moses gives an explanation: ‘God said, and it was so.’”*

Nature teaches many lessons of life. The Luther household pet, their dog Töpel, liked to sit poised next to the dining table, patiently staring at every move, waiting for a scrap to fall.



**Caleb K  
Schultz**  
MLC 2012  
San Diego CA



**John  
Gierach**  
NWC 1992  
Sheboygan WI



**Kelly L  
Paulsen**  
DMLC 1992  
New Ulm MN



**James  
Winterstein**  
NWC 1987  
Monroe MI



*"If I were devoted to prayer as a dog is to food," the good Doctor noted sincerely, "I could get anything from God."*

God answered. His marriage to Katherine was blessed with six children. *"I have received, by the blessing of God, a little son, and, by God's wonderful grace, I have become a father."* Papa admired the baby's simplicity and trustfulness and watched him grow with a father's eye and an educational interest. *"My little Hans sends greetings. He is in his teething month and is beginning to say 'Daddy,' and scolds everybody with pleasant insults."*

Even the unfortunate happenings of parenthood did not dampen Luther's love. When the baby dirtied papa's lap, he

*"Serve the Lord with fear and trembling" (Psalm 2:11). "They go together—joy and fear," he commented introspectively. "My little son Hans can do it before me, but I cannot do it before God. If I sit and write, and Hans sings a song over there and plays too noisily, I speak to him about it and he sings more quietly with care and respect. So God will always have us joyful, but with fear and honor to him."*

Childcare lessons therefore must take into account the child's nature: *"One who disciplines with anger makes evil worse. . . . Experience teaches that love will effect more than slavish fear or force. . . . Parents commonly are guilty of ruining their children. They usually make a mistake in two directions, either by*

### **A Salute to the Birds**

*"Good morning, theologians—you wake and sing, but I, an old fool, know less than you and worry over everything instead of simply trusting in the heavenly Father's care."*

*-Martin Luther*

good-naturedly explained that the child's performance did not differ from the way we treat our heavenly Father. God cares and provides for us, and we repay him with the filth of sin and ingratitude.

Yet little ones need guidance and discipline because of their sinful nature. Respect for parents and love for parents go hand in hand. Luther came down hard on any form of child-beating that gave vent to parents' anger and merely satisfied their feelings. Commenting on St. Paul's words: "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger" (Colossians 3:21), he said,

*"This is spoken against those who use passionate violence in bringing up their children. Such discipline begets in the child's mind, which is yet tender, a state of fear and reticence, and develops a feeling of hate towards the parents, so that it often runs away from home. . . . Yet St. Paul does not mean that we should not punish children, but that we should punish them from love, seeking not to cool our anger, but to make them better."*

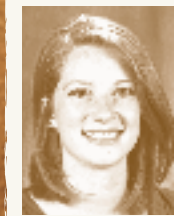
Occasionally when his son Hans disturbed Luther's concentration by loud antics, Luther reprimanded him and the child stopped out of respect for his father. The memory came back as the professor was working on the second Psalm:

*excessive coddling and indulgence, or through excessive severity and animosity."*

Despite their daily wrongdoings and sinful nature, children remain the greatest blessings of God. To a fellow professor who was rejoicing in God's blessings of fruit by hanging a cherry branch over his table, Luther suggested, *"Why don't you think of your children? They are in front of you all the time, and you will learn from them more than from a cherry bough."*



**Karl Plocher**  
NWC 1962  
Glencoe MN



**Kayla A Fry**  
MLC 2012  
Grove City OH



**Martin L Stern**  
NWC 1947  
Ixonia WI



**Darlene Hauch**  
DMLC 1967  
Stevensville MI



# ALHS Online and the MLC Connection



By **Dr. James Grunwald** DMLC '76  
MLC Director of Academic  
Computing & Online Learning

Imagine high school and middle school students being able to attend a course taught from a Christian perspective no matter where they live. With ALHS Online, students can do just that.

ALHS Online is an online course service provider that allows WELS high schools to expand their own curricular offerings in a cost-effective manner. For example, if a school has only one or two students who desire a particular course, it's not cost effective for the school to offer that course. If several students can be pooled together from several different schools, however, the course suddenly becomes feasible. The creation, teaching, and facilitation of these courses is the purpose of ALHS Online.

Here's how it works. The schools pay a small per-student fee. Students access a course by logging onto a website with their own username and password. The instructor breaks the course down into a series of weekly or daily lessons and provides a "lesson guide sheet" to lead the students through each lesson. A typical lesson might include reading a textbook excerpt or an online article, or viewing a recorded lecture. Students participate in written class discussions through a discussion board tool, and they submit their assignments to the instructor for grading. Although students do have deadlines for the various lesson activities, they don't need to access the course at the same time as other students; they can log on whenever it fits their schedule.

ALHS Online began in 2011-12 with two courses the first semester and three the second. About 30 students enrolled each semester, representing eight WELS high schools. Today, enrollment is about 250 student seats spread across 24 courses each semester. Students in 2016-17 come from 21 WELS high schools, 12 Lutheran elementary schools, and several homeschooled and public schools.

A gracious God has truly blessed ALHS Online. Enrollment has increased by about 60% each year. Nearly 90% of WELS high schools have had students participating. A dedicated core of nearly 20 qualified WELS teachers teach the courses. Some teachers also teach in WELS schools; others are retired teachers, professors, pastors, or stay-at-home parents. And recently, ALHS Online has also begun offering high school Spanish and algebra to qualified middle school students.

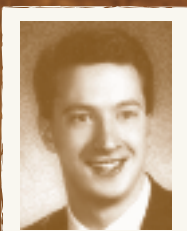
Schools, parents, and students are appreciative of ALHS Online, as evidenced by comments like these:

- *Please send a word of appreciation to your board of directors and online teachers who continually develop this online source of education from the Christian education perspective!*
- *ALHSO is a wonderful blessing to our students!*
- *Class was awesome!*
- *It was a fun class, and I learned a lot!*
- *I just really enjoyed this class. 10 for 10!*

Although ALHS Online is an independent, tax-exempt, non-profit corporation, it does have some ties to MLC. MLC hosts and maintains the hardware and software. Many of the ALHS Online instructors completed their teaching degrees and online training through MLC. Three MLC professors (**Peter Baganz** DMLC '87, **Dan Fenske** DMLC '87, **Tingting Schwartz**), as well as several retired MLC professors, currently teach an ALHS Online course. As MLC's director of academic computing and online learning, I am blessed to serve as superintendent for ALHS Online, overseeing its day-to-day operations.

ALHS Online is another way that MLC partners with Lutheran high schools to nurture students academically and also spiritually. When any student, from anywhere in the world, can enroll in a high-quality course taught from a Christian perspective—that is truly a blessing.

To learn more, go to [ALHSO.org](http://ALHSO.org) or contact me at [grunwajr@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:grunwajr@mlc-wels.edu).



**Todd Engel**  
NWC 1992  
South Haven MN



**Daniel Koelpin**  
NWC 1967  
Livonia MI



**Jana K Sievert**  
MLC 2002  
West Bend WI



**Michael Nitz**  
NWC 1982  
Garden Grove CA



## 2018: First International Alumni Tour German Luther Lands, Austrian Alps, & Rome!

In celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, we'll be touring important Martin Luther sites, as well as the Austrian Alps and Rome, in late June and early July. Watch for more details!



Martin Luther statue: Eisleben



Castle Church Doors: Wittenberg



Salzburg



Rome

## Join Us for the 2017 Alumni Commencement Dinner

**Friday, May 12, 2017, 4 pm**  
*Luther Student Center Cafeteria*

Enjoy a delicious meal . . . good fellowship . . .  
presentations by professors . . . and then attend  
the 7:30 concert in the  
Wittenberg Collegiate Center Auditorium.

*Only \$5.00 - payable on arrival*

**Reservations are required:**

Call the alumni office at 507-354-8221 x387  
or register online at [mlcdinner17.eventbrite.com](http://mlcdinner17.eventbrite.com)

*All alumni and families welcome!*

*This year's presenters:*



**Dr. Lawrence Olson**  
Staff Ministry &  
Congregational Assistant  
Program



**Vice President  
Steve Thiesfeldt**  
Campus  
Development:  
Plans & Priorities



**Professor  
Jon Schaefer**  
Alumni Association  
President:  
New Statue &  
Scholarship Program



**Caitlin R  
Bare**  
MLC 2007  
Lake Geneva WI



**Randall  
Bartelt**  
NWC 1972  
Beaver Dam WI



**Jessica L  
Hupalo**  
MLC 2007  
Bellevue FL



**Roger  
Plath**  
NWC 1972  
Litchfield MN

## Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Your Alma Mater — Now at Your Fingertips!

Historical documents abound on MLC's website, thanks to hundreds of hours volunteered by the 15-20 members of the Archives Team.

Special thanks go to **Lois Bode DMLC '67**, who volunteers as temporary archivist/volunteer manager, and **Kelly Diersen DMLC '95**, who works as temporary archives project manager, thanks to funding from the MLC Alumni Association. Kelly has established a campus-wide collection and retention policy and is getting more and more content online. . . . like these items!



### DMLC MESSENGER:

Want a glimpse of DMLC student life 100 years ago? Look no further. The *DMLC Messenger* provides that and more. College and alumni notes, jokes in *Neu Ulmer Deutsch*, and advertisements by local businesses give an entertaining look at early DMLC and New Ulm days. This site contains every quarterly booklet from 1910 to 1951. (From 1951 to 1995, the *Messenger* was published as a monthly newspaper.) [mlc-wels.edu/history/dmlc-messenger](http://mlc-wels.edu/history/dmlc-messenger)



### FOR ALL THE SAINTS

This site contains brief obituaries of former D/MLC faculty members who have recently fallen asleep in the Lord. Professors Emeritus Lyle Lange and Howard Wessel both recently went home to their Lord, Lange in

December 2016 and Wessel in February 2017. These and many other obituaries can be found at [mlc-wels.edu/history/professor-obltaurles](http://mlc-wels.edu/history/professor-obltaurles).



### HISTORICAL BOOKS

*Dr. Martin Luther College: A Brief History*  
by Professor Edmund Bliervnicht (1934)

*A Time to Remember*  
by Professor Morton A. Schroeder (1984)

*125 Years, 125 Stories*  
by Laurie Gauger (2009)



### YEARBOOKS

Page through annuals from Martin Luther Academy, Dr. Martin Luther College, Northwestern College, and Martin Luther College. [mlc-wels.edu/history/yearbooks](http://mlc-wels.edu/history/yearbooks)



### PRESIDENTS' BIOGRAPHIES

This page features biographies of the presidents of NWC, DMLC, and MLC, as they are published in *MLC InFocus* magazine. [mlc-wels.edu/history/president-bios](http://mlc-wels.edu/history/president-bios)

Dr. August F. Ernst  
NWC President 1871-1919



### WRITTEN REMEMBRANCES

Former students like Marie Kappelmann Janke share their own campus life and ministry stories. Please use our online form to submit yours too! [mlc-wels.edu/history/written-remembrances](http://mlc-wels.edu/history/written-remembrances)



### COMING SOON: HEADSHOTS OF ALL GRADUATES!





## Meet the Presidents

### Dr. Martin Luther College President Conrad I. Frey

**Conrad I. Frey** (1914-1998), though known as “Stubby” for his stature, was nonetheless an administrative giant. During 14 years in office (1966-1980), Frey used his organizational skills to give the college presence throughout the synod. The post-WWII era of rapidly increasing contacts and media communication, the college’s vision for expansion, and synodical demands for mission outreach caused him to become the first full-time, non-teaching president.

Born to a pastor’s family, Frey was trained in the WELS’ educational system. After graduating from Northwestern College (1935) and the WELS seminary (1938), he practiced education for two years at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, its first tutor.

In 1949 Stubby, now married to Charlotte Frey (no relative by birth), returned to Michigan Lutheran Seminary as president. During the nine prior years, he had gained experience as a pastor in Michigan parishes at Kawkawlin and Detroit during WWII. The economic swirl, particularly in Michigan, allowed him and the Michigan District to observe its effects on social mobility. Returning soldiers and Midwestern congregation members looked for work throughout the USA.

The new MLS president seized the opportunity for growth. He took classes in education at Michigan State University. He led faculty discussions on curricula and organization. The Wisconsin-Missouri synod struggles during Frey’s years at MLS (1949-1966) did not hinder progress in synodical schools, fostering expansion instead.

Frey was called to Dr. Martin Luther College in 1966 to capitalize on prior advancements at the college. He fit the mold, serving in many capacities at home and abroad. He arrived at DMLC shortly after a sabbatical year as the synod’s first “friendly counselor” to a foreign mission (1964, Hong Kong). At the college he oversaw the consolidation of the synod’s teacher-training facilities in New Ulm (1970) and the college’s accreditation through the North Central Association of Colleges (1980).

Affable and approachable by nature, Frey was elected to the Aid Association for Lutherans Board of Directors, became the WELS representative to the Center for Reformation Research, and served locally on the board of Citizen’s State Bank.

As MLC president, he oversaw the construction and development of several additions to campus: the library, dormitories, off-campus faculty homes, the MLC print shop, Backer Memorial Organ, Luther Memorial Union (gymnasium, cafeteria, and student union), the Lancer Football Bowl, and the program for college practice teaching and supervision.

President Frey died in 1998. His service in the Lord’s kingdom was broad and deep.

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



### Northwestern College

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



### Dr. Martin Luther College

1884-1885 Christian J. Albrecht  
1885-1893 Otto Hoyer  
1893-1908 John Schaller  
1908-1918 Adolph Ackermann  
1918-1920 Johannes P. Meyer  
1920-1935 Edmund Bliefernicht  
1936-1966 Carl L. Schweppe  
**1966-1980**  
**Conrad Frey**  
1980-1993 Lloyd O. Huebner  
1993-1995 John Lawrenz



### Martin Luther College

1994-2007 Theodore Olsen  
2007-present Mark Zarling

## Arbor Day – A Rite of Spring

By **Clarice Fastenau** DMLC '60, MLC Archives Team

For nearly 110 years Arbor Day has been anticipated each spring as a chance to close the books for a day and groom the campus. The tradition began on a mild April morning in **1910**. The students tidied the campus, enjoyed a picnic meal, and then “relaxed on their blankets and enjoyed their hour of *Gemuetlichkeit*. (125 Years 125 Stories)

The following year the construction of the Music Hall and Summit Hall “caused a great deal of disorder, but the rubbish was cleaned up on Arbor Day with not very much effort by the student body.” (DMLC Messenger Volume 1, Number 3, **1911**)

“On Arbor Day, April 12, **1945**, students relaxing on blankets and listening to the band play were jolted from their reverie. On the radio some students heard the news that Franklin Delano Roosevelt had died of a sudden cerebral hemorrhage.” (125 Years, 125 Stories)

In **1959** “the afternoon work was centered on improvements of the new DMLC park, ‘Luther Hollow’” (then a brush-filled area, now the football field). “Late in the afternoon a tree-planting ceremony was held at the monument where a Black Hills spruce was planted. Soon after the ceremony the students gathered in Luther Hollow for a delicious picnic supper.” (Excelsior **1959**)

“Arbor Day was climaxed by a variety program in the evening. Some rousing community singing concluded the enjoyable evening.” (Excelsior **1960**) The variety shows on Arbor Day evening continued for several years.

Arbor Day in **1969** was a half-day. “While the morning was utilized for cleaning up the campus and the professors’ lawns, the

afternoon was set aside for track and field competitions between the classes. The sophomores totaled the most points in events ranging from piggy-back relays to a tug-of-war.” (Excelsior **1969**)

Legend has it that the tree planted on Arbor Day, April 20, **1999**, was a hemlock. All Classical history scholars know well it was the sap of the hemlock the great philosopher Socrates drank to his death. While digging a hole for the tree, an ancient scroll was unearthed, which the students recognized as Classical Greek. Professor Schmidt translated the work, which turned out to be poetry that could be sung to *O Tannenbaum*. Professor Emeritus David Gosdeck verifies this legend.

*O Socrates, O Socrates, how precious is your logic!  
As we explore your wily ways,  
you slowly destroy our GPAs.*

*O Socrates, O Socrates, how lovely is your syntax!  
Your periphrastics are a fright.  
Your clauses keep us up at night.*

*O Socrates, O Socrates, how lofty is your wisdom!  
To know yourself is truly wise.  
We know no Greek – we tell no lies.*

Ah, yes, Arbor Day! A time for hard work, rest, and fun over the years!



Arbor Day 1910



Arbor Day Mid-1940s



Kathy Meyer on Arbor Day 1955





Arbor Day 1960

# Looking back...

By Ruth Koelpin and  
Clarice Fastenau DMLC '61

## 125 Years Ago

1892 – In 1892 Dr. Martin Luther College had been open eight years and had helped provide 30 pastors and eight teachers to the Minnesota Synod. It had also provided general education and business courses to many other local young men in the academic department. *Pictured: Arthur Ehlke, student in 1890s. (125 Years-125 Stories)*



## 75 Years Ago

1942 – There were only 18 graduates in June of 1942, ten women and eight men. Two of the men received their diplomas in absentia because they had already been inducted into the armed forces. Two more were called up to active duty two weeks after graduation. *(A Time to Remember)*

## 50 Years Ago

1967 – The newly formed Junto Club discussed the Vietnam situation, youth riots, and the wisdom of allowing “Red” China to belong to the United Nations. *Pictured members: Edith Zickuhr, Judy Tessmer, and Michele Murray. (125 Years-125 Stories)*



## 10 Years Ago

2007 – Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Professor Mark Zarling accepted the call to be president of Martin Luther College. *Pictured: Mark and Colette Zarling*





# New Scholarship Awarded to First Winner



## Professor Meilahn P. Zahn Memorial Scholarship for the Advancement of Lutheran Worship in Christian Education

The Zahn family established this scholarship in 2015 in memory of Professor Meilahn Paul Zahn (1905-1982), who served as a professor of music at Dr. Martin Luther College from 1962 to 1977.

Professor Zahn grew up on a small dairy farm near Pickett, Wisconsin. He worked on the farm after finishing elementary school, and years later was persuaded by his piano teacher to attend high school. He enrolled as a high school freshman on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. His pastor saw his musical abilities and arranged for him to continue his high school education at Dr. Martin Luther High School, which led to college at DMLC. He was involved in all things musical in New Ulm and started a choir of 12 men called the Marluts (from MARTin LUTher), which became a fixture at concerts for several decades. He also earned the nickname Smilin' Meilahn.

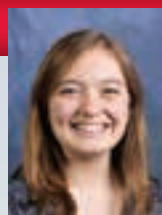
He served at St. Peter-Fond du Lac WI, Grace-Oshkosh WI, Trinity-Menasha WI, and Michigan Lutheran Seminary before he was called to DMLC, where he directed the traveling choir, taught conducting class, and served as music department chair 13 of his 15 years.

Zahn Scholarship winners are undergraduate students who demonstrate God-given abilities in music through the creation of a work that promotes Lutheran worship and/or Lutheran music education. The work may be musical, textual, visual, pedagogical, or technological.

The work will be judged in a blind competition at MLC, based on four criteria: purpose, application, creativity, and quality.

If you would like to establish a named scholarship, grant, or endowment at Martin Luther College—either need-based or merit-based—please contact Pastor Michael Otterstatter, vice president for mission advancement. He will guide you through the process.

[ottersmj@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:ottersmj@mlc-wels.edu) / 507.766.2744



## 2016-17 WINNER

### Molly Beth Hennig

(St. John-New Ulm MN)

My submission for the Professor Meilahn P. Zahn Memorial Scholarship is an original hymn text titled "Here They Come—the Foes of Jesus." The text may be used in any service setting and any Sunday of the Church year, yet ideally for the End Times and Advent. The text focuses on a Christian's joyous expectation of the second coming of Jesus. The text is trochaic in meter in order to bring forth an atmosphere of confidence and importance. The rhyme scheme is a simple ABCB, ABCB.

There are few hymn texts that describe the happiness of Judgment Day, and those that do mix the text with a warning to be prepared. In the same way, many sermons that focus on Judgment Day lead us to fear Christ's coming, perhaps not only for our safety, but also for the safety of our loved ones. As a result, I was deathly afraid of Judgment Day as a child, and I was gripped with the fear that my eternal soul was in danger at all times. My anxiety ended when my parents explained to me that my salvation was already taken care of by God's love.

It is my hope that through this hymn text the message of Judgment Day may be realized as one of hope and not of fear.

#### Here They Come—the Foes of Jesus!

*Here they come—the foes of Jesus!  
Evil laughs upon the Hill.  
Once disguised as there to please us,  
Beasts arise from Hell to kill.  
I'll not wince nor will I shudder  
As their hateful cries I hear.  
Every demon's hollow boasting  
Is a mask to hide its fear.*

*Look, he comes—my Savior Jesus!  
Every eye sees him above.  
He has hurled down the Accuser;  
He has triumphed! He is Love!  
See the Liar filled with fury,  
For he knows his time is short,  
And that he has lost his quarry  
To the blessed, holy Court.*

*Here we are! The Throng of Jesus,  
Of which I am gladly part,  
Joins the Father, Son, and Spirit;  
Peace now comes to every heart!  
In His Home he ends all anguish--  
Such is when He comes again.  
Therefore, daily I'm proclaiming  
"Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen!"*



# We preach Christ crucified!

When entering the chapel at Martin Luther College, we can't help but look up and see Christ.

Our Savior, bleeding, dying, is at the center of the Chapel of the Christ sanctuary—and at the center of our hearts—as we worship.

Our Savior is indeed at the center of everything we are and everything we do at Martin Luther College. To prepare a corps of witnesses who will teach and preach Christ crucified—that is why we exist.

As you worship our Savior this Lent, please consider joining us in this life-giving gospel ministry.

**Rev. Mark Zarling**  
*MLC President*



## Current Priorities

Your gift will help us fulfill our mission: preparing men and women to meet WELS ministry needs—those studying to be *new* pastors, teachers, and staff ministers and also those *current* called workers who want continuing education.

## Student Financial Aid

Your gift for this appeal will be directed to the Congregational Partner Grant Program, where it will match congregations' gifts to MLC for their sons and daughters studying for the public ministry.

[mlc-wels.edu/donate](http://mlc-wels.edu/donate)



# Paustian Wins 2016 Dissertation of



**Dr. Mark Paustian** WLS '88 (English/Hebrew) was awarded the 2016 Dissertation of the Year by the Religious Communication Association.

He traveled to Philadelphia to accept the award and participate in a panel discussion.

He wrote his dissertation, *The Beauty with the Veil: Validating the Strategies of Kierkegaardian Indirect Communication Through a Close Christological Reading of the Hebrew Old Testament*, as the final component of his PhD studies in communication at Regent University.

## An excerpt from *The Beauty with the Veil*

This study explores the ways in which the Old Testament complicates and extends Søren Kierkegaard's strategies of indirect communication. . . .

This is an interdisciplinary investigation at the nexus of biblical theology, literary criticism, rhetorical analysis, and communication theory. These come together for an understanding of how the Christological content of the Old Testament relates to the variety of its literary forms. Biblical texts from several genres were selected: parable, historical prose, cultic and prophetic poetry, ritual, apocalyptic, proverbial and non-proverbial wisdom literature, and love song. The major result of this study is that the presence of indirect communication in the Old Testament validates its usefulness for communicating the grace of Christ. . . .

As articulated with extraordinary creativity by Kierkegaard, *indirect communication* is an entire constellation of ideas. As to the overarching purpose of this dissertation, it is to demonstrate that this very constellation revolves also in the Old Testament sky and in combinations every bit as artful and impactful as those that animate Kierkegaard's prolific body of work. . . .

If ancient forms of indirect communication enliven the inspired writing of a Moses or a David, a Solomon or a Jeremiah, the degree to which this would legitimize further exploration into its strategies cannot be overstated, especially in the church and Christian institutions of higher learning. For adherents of mere Christianity, indirect communication, with its many Old Testament expressions and manifestations would bear the stamp of approval of the Spirit himself.

The humble hope behind this sprawling study is to further in some small way evangelicalism's break-out from modernity's

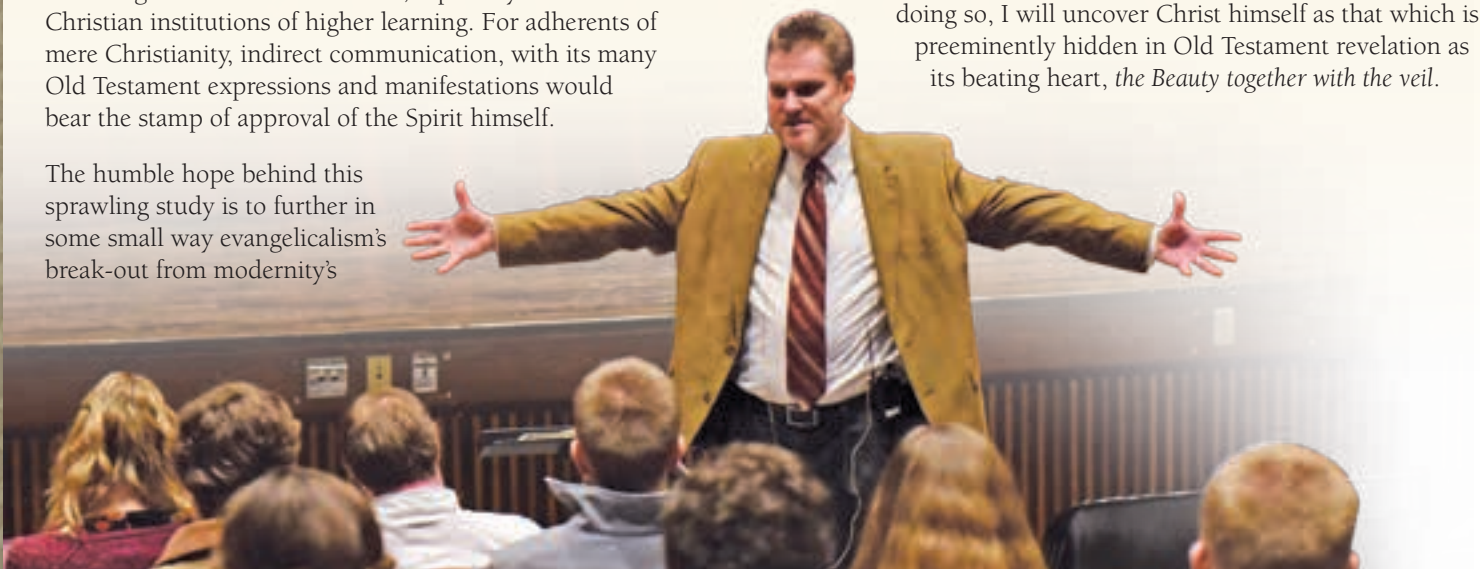
long headlock, the hyper-intellectualism that sees the human problem as an information problem rather than what it is, a problem of soul. Divine mystery, grace, and revelation do not reduce to reasonable sentences and philosophical abstractions. They are a voice crying in the wilderness.

The wildness of Old Testament truth can be domesticated and diminished when room is not given for its prophets and poets to speak the way they speak: in love song and rescue story, smoky ritual and visions by the river.

I rest my case on an accumulation of biblical examples that not only smack of Kierkegaard but even more, they set in sharpest contrast the way God *might* have addressed himself to humanity (confining himself to the directness of propositions or the straightforwardness of systems) and the way he *did*. There is nothing obvious about the God of the Hebrews. His way is the more powerful by far, and it is the Word of God.

This dissertation is a humble signpost away from proof and back to beauty, that ancient literary beauty that is to be allowed its full play across the contours of the mind, to disturb and to entangle, to absolve and to move, all according to its many and various forms. . . .

I argue that it is safest for the Old Testament interpreter to follow the hermeneutical cues laid down by Christ and his apostles. By doing so, I will uncover Christ himself as that which is preeminently hidden in Old Testament revelation as its beating heart, *the Beauty together with the veil*.







# the Year Award

## Questions for Dr. Mark Paustian

**Your dissertation builds on Søren Kierkegaard's idea of indirect communication. Kierkegaard was a Danish Lutheran. I'm sure some will wonder: Are you are advocating Kierkegaard's brand of Lutheranism?**

Not at all. He simply offers a provocative idea about Christian communication, especially communication aimed at a hostile or delusional audience, an audience not predisposed to listen, or one that thinks it already fully knows and understands Jesus and Christianity.

I do join several conservative Lutheran writers in rethinking the meaning of Kierkegaard. In his own retrospective account of his authorship, he revealed that all his philosophical writings (written under pseudonyms) were intended to be self-cancelling voices designed to show the bankruptcy of human thought. Kierkegaard was convinced that Christianity would always suffer fatal harm from any marriage with philosophy. He hoped that the writings that, regrettably, made him famous would chase his readers to his prolific sermons ("edifying discourses" written in his own name) to know his real heart. There we meet a flawed but recognizable Lutheran voice. In his private journals and papers, he stated his own adherence to the Lutheran confessions and, more important, his unwavering confession as to the objectivity of the gospel (not to mention the fact that he relentlessly mocks the core assumption that unites the existential philosophers).

Above all, he understood himself to be a corrective for a complacent church (Hegelian philosophy with a Christian veneer), who would himself need correcting. My study includes a complex assessment of Kierkegaard as a Lutheran, the man who begged the clergy of his day to preach Luther's sermons instead of their own. The story is quite mixed and some of his terminology is unfortunate, but my assessment of his life is not without admiration, not least of all for his staunch refusal to engage with the historical-critical view of the Bible. Given the times, at the height of modernity, he was remarkable for his high view of Scripture and his deep suspicion of human reason as the source of truth or human will as a cause of salvation.

Above all, the person of Christ, true God and true Man, was Kierkegaard's lifelong obsession, the Savior who comes to us through divine revelation and as a collision with natural human thinking. He wanted most in life to gain a fresh hearing of the gospel for people who lacked any experience of Luther's *Anfechtung* (struggle) and who, consequently, could know nothing of his joy.

**Why search out the idea of indirect communication in the Old Testament?**

When Jesus was asked why he preached in parables (the quintessential indirect communication form), he referred to the Old Testament prophecies that the Messiah would teach in just this way. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would accommodate his communication to an audience that possessed the truth, but "though hearing, did not hear, and though seeing, did not see."

It is critical that we speak plainly and unambiguously about Christ when people are listening, especially when they have been made aware of their need. However, the Old Testament models a beautiful menu of communication forms to meet the need of an audience in illusion, resistance, or denial. These forms also involve the believer in a deeper engagement with the truth revealed. It is an aspect of learning to love what we know.

The classic text is 2 Samuel 12, where the prophet Nathan chooses to approach King David with a story, one designed to leave the king's defenses down and to bring him into more honest contact with the truth. Indirect communication is a complex cluster of strategies, all on full display through both Testaments.

As Luther commented to Erasmus (not quite in these terms), the Christian loves the clear, divinely revealed propositional truths, the costly doctrines and assertions carefully mined from the Scriptures. The "what" of biblical content is priceless beyond all speaking. I personally have a deep love and fascination for sound systematic theology. My intention is to marry that love to a companion love for the Bible's literary forms, the "many times and various ways" God has spoken in the past, the "how" in which inspired truth often comes to us. That's "the beauty with the veil." There's a reason God's truth comes wrapped in story, image, ritual, vision, song, and so on. The forms are not dispensable, things to be discarded once we have excavated the meaning. And in the broadest sense, my dissertation brings nothing new to theology or biblical study, but only explores and brings a new terminology to Augustine's thesis, "The New Testament is in the Old concealed." That's an indirect communication *par excellence*.

A veil covers the hearts of those who read the Old Testament and do not find themselves or their redemption there. As the Apostle wrote, "Only in Christ is the veil taken away."

*Dr. Paustian invites questions and conversation from anyone interested in indirect communication. He can be reached at [paustima@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:paustima@mlc-wels.edu).*

# FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

**Dr. Bethel Balge** (music) was a guest artist with the Mankato Symphony Orchestra in February, performing Schumann's *Piano Concerto in A minor*. In January and February, her chamber group, the Bekesh Trio, presented concerts at Bethany Lutheran College, at Good Counsel Chapel in Mankato, and at MLC as part of the Summit Avenue Music Series.



**Professor Rebecca Cox** DMLC '89 (physical education) serves on the WELS Physical Education Committee, which coordinated the second WELS National Physical Education Conference in September in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She also served as assistant site representative for the NCAA DIII Volleyball

Regional Tournament at the University of Northwestern-St. Paul in November.

**Dr. James Grunwald** DMLC '78 (director of academic computing) accepted appointment to the WELS Technology Advisory Committee.



**Professor Earl Heidtke** DMLC '73 (academic dean for education and staff ministry) presented "Thinking Geographically in the Primary Grades" at the Metro Milwaukee Lutheran Teachers' Conference at St. Jacobi-Greenfield WI on March 2-3.

**Professor Grace Hennig** DMLC '88 (music) and **Laurie Gauger** DMLC '87 (writer/editor) saw the publication of their choral anthem "What Grace Is This" by GIA Publishing in January. Dr. Larry Visser of Grand Rapids, Michigan, arranged the anthem.

**Dr. Robert Klindworth** DMLC '70 (education) was reappointed to a three-year term on the Minnesota Nonpublic Education Council by Minnesota Commissioner of Education Brenda Cassilius. He was also reaffirmed as a member of the Minnesota Board of Teaching Standards and Rules Committee by Executive Director Erin Doan.

**Professor Emeritus Arnold Koelpin** WLS '59 presented "The World of Martin Luther," an overview of the Martin Luther exhibit at the Minnesota Institute of Art, at the request of the MLC Aulic Committee in January. The archived presentation can be found at [mlc-wels.edu/go/luther-exhibit](http://mlc-wels.edu/go/luther-exhibit).



**Professor Paul Koelpin** WLS '90 (history/theology) was voted UMAC 2016 Men's Soccer Coach of the Year.

**Professors Emerita Susan Haar** DMLC '65 and **Dr. Carla Melendy** presented "Integrating Math and Science in PreK" at the Nebraska and Dakota/Montana District Conference in Estes Park, Colorado, in October.

**Professor Emeritus Edward Meyer** DMLC '58 served as organ consultant for the restoration and enhancement of the 1963 Schlicker organ in the Luther Preparatory School chapel.

**Dr. Mark Paustian** WLS '88 (English/Hebrew) presented "Where Two or Three" at a gathering of congregations in Modesto, California, in February and "An Emerging Lutheran Apologetic" to the Association of Lutheran High Schools in Milwaukee in March. He also received the "2016 Dissertation of the Year" award from the Religious Communication Association. Please see page 32.



**Professor David Scharf** WLS '05 (theology) saw publication of his booklet *Don't Fear the End* by Time of Grace Ministries.

**Professor James Unke** DMLC '83 (athletic director) has been elected a congressman to the National Association of Basketball Coaches, an oversight body for NCAA men's basketball. Unke was chosen by a national committee of NCAA Division I, II, and III men's coaches based on his 35 years of coaching experience, 19 of which were at MLC.

**Professor Emeritus Wayne Wagner** DMLC '72 taught Classical Music Appreciation through New Ulm CASTLE (Community and Seniors Together Learning Environment) in January and February. He also served as organ consultant for First-Racine WI and played their organ dedication service in March.

**Dr. Jeff Wiechman** DMLC '92 (vice president for academics) presented the keynote address, "Supervision of Instruction," at the Western Wisconsin District Teachers' Conference at First-La Crosse in February.

**Professor Emeritus Frederick Wulff** DMLC '63 has self-published his seventh book, *Aging with Faith and Common Sense*, through Outskirts Press.



## Christian Leadership Experience – Orlando FL

Two Martin Luther College professors presented at the Christian Leadership Experience in Orlando in January:

- “Lutheran Principals for the 21st Century”  
**Dr. John Meyer** DMLC '87 (director of graduate studies/continuing education)
- “Getting the Outreach Started (Corporately)” and “Getting the Conversation Started (Personally)”  
**Professor David Scharf** WLS '05 (theology)

## Religion Curriculum Conference – MLC

Eight Martin Luther College professors presented at the two-day Religion Curriculum Conference hosted by the Southwest Minnesota Principals' Conference on the MLC campus.



Professor **David Sellnow** WLS '86 (theology/history, pictured) presented the keynote address, “Will We Instruct or Indoctrinate?”

Seven professors of education presented sectionals on teaching Bible lessons, catechism classes, and classroom devotions:

- **Lance Hartzell** DMLC '71
- **Jennifer Krause** '96
- **Cheryl Loomis** DMLC '77
- **Lawrence Lotito**
- **Jonathan Roux** DMLC '94
- **Scott Schmudlach** DMLC '85
- **Paul Tess** DMLC '77

## Mathematics Curriculum Conference – Watertown WI

Seven MLC professors of math and education presented sectionals at the two-day Mathematics Curriculum Conference hosted by the Central Wisconsin Principals' Conference in Watertown:

- **James Carlovsky** '02
- **Joyce Diels** DMLC '73
- **Susan Haar** DMLC '65
- **Jennifer Krause** '96
- **Carla Melendy**
- **Paul Tess** DMLC '77
- **Cindy Whaley** DMLC '76

Topics included curriculum design, mathematical tools used in decision making, developing mathematical thinking, differentiated instruction and assessment, and much more.

## Evangelism Day – MLC

Along with dozens of visiting speakers, eight Martin Luther College professors gave presentations at the 2017 Evangelism Day in January.

- “Luther as an Evangelist”  
**Professor Emeritus Arnold Koelpin** WLS '59
- “The Divine Call and How It Relates to Called Public Ministry and Evangelism”  
**Dr. Mark Paustian** WLS '88 (English/Hebrew)
- “Evangelism in Times of Crisis”  
**Professor Ross Stelljes** WLS '89 (admissions counselor, pictured)
- “Evangelism Isn't Easy” panel discussion  
**Professor Cheryl Loomis** DMLC '77 (education)  
**Professor John Schmidt** WLS '74 (Greek)  
**Professor David Sellnow** WLS '86 (theology/history)
- “Preparing a Personal Witness”  
**Professor Lawrence Olson** WLS '83 (theology/staff ministry/Cong. Assistant Program)  
**Professor James Pope** WLS '81 (history/theology/staff ministry)  
**Professor David Sellnow** WLS '86 (theology/history)
- “Starting a Spiritual Conversation”  
**Professor David Scharf** WLS '05 (theology, pictured)





## ***The social event of the year just keeps getting better!***

MLC Day invites supporters across the globe  
to celebrate God's many blessings to MLC through social media!

### **PRAY** for our mission and ministry:

- Offer prayers of thanks for MLC in your schools and churches
- Send your prayers to us, and we'll post them online

### **SHARE** our story:

- Follow our MLC Day activities on Facebook
- Share MLC Day videos, prayers, and messages with your online friends
- Send your messages and photos to us so we can share them on Facebook

### **GIVE** to support ministerial training:

- MLC Day contributions will help fund the Congregational Partner Grant Program, directly supporting MLC students!

*Want more information? Want to help spread the word? Visit [mlcday.com](http://mlcday.com).*

*Watch for posts on our Facebook page.*

*Contact us at [mlcday@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:mlcday@mlc-wels.edu).*

