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Football Champs Again!

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Equipping Christian Witnesses

Sermon Excerpt | By Rev. Mark Zarling WLS '80, MLC president



Dear people of God, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb,

Where do our called workers come from? Who will tell the next generation here and in 1,235 other WELS congregations throughout North America about the God who loves them? Who will tell the children the saving name of Jesus in the 54 countries we are trying to serve?

Martin Luther College is your College of Ministry, training pastors and teachers and staff ministers. No doubt, you know the urgent need for workers. Almost 110 pulpits are vacant, with some congregations calling

for a year or even two before receiving a pastor. Teacher shortages in some areas now hamper our ministry and limit our expansion. Our synod has even had a request to start a high school in a foreign country, teaching our own curriculum—no strings attached. But we don't have the teachers. We have received requests from almost 3,000 men from around the world who want to be trained for ministry. That's 30 times the size of our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Opportunities abound. Vacancies abound. And the time is now.

The first pillar of our two-year campaign entitled "Equipping Christian Witnesses" is recruitment. About fifteen years ago we had almost 1,100 students on our campus in New Ulm, Minnesota. Under God and by the Spirit's power, can we increase our current enrollment by 35% in the next four to five years to reach nearly that same number?

And if we recruit students, can we retain them with increased financial aid and enhanced facilities?

I ask you to carefully read our campaign materials and then to pray boldly. I ask you to lovingly encourage a daughter or son of your congregation to consider ministry. What a privilege of grace to be called as an instrument of the Spirit to bring the Word of Life and to impact a heart for all eternity!

Come on, children of God, we follow the Miracle Worker. God has given us everything we need to carry his gospel forward. We have the Word. Let's confess our sins of selfishness and doubt, of fear and worry. Let's rejoice in God's power to save. Let's dedicate ourselves anew.

Let's tell our children about the saving activity of the Lord Jesus Christ in our midst. Let's tell them that they, too, can be messengers of the victory only Jesus brings. Amen.

To learn more about the capital campaign, Equipping Christian Witnesses, see pages 16-23.

Or go to mlc-wels.edu/mlc-campaign.

On the cover:

STEM & M at MLC. Read more on page 5.

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





The alumni photos at the bottom of the pages are from the anniversary classes of MLC, NWC, and DMLC: '40, '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '75, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05, '10, and '15. Thanks to Alumni Director Steve Balza *DMLC* '93, who provided this random selection of alumni.



Albert Bruesehoff DMLC 1945 Watertown WI



Fourteen students earned their diplomas at the December 19, 2019, commencement service. **President Mark Zarling** *WLS* '80 preached on Romans 8:38-39 for the service, and **Dr. Jeff Wiechman** *DMLC* '92, vice president for academics, conferred the degrees.

Front row: Michaela Bessler (Bremerton WA) – Elementary Ed; Elise Bush (Pacific Grove CA) – Early Childhood Ed; Emma Schneck (Monroe MI) – Early Childhood & Elementary Ed; Stephanie Kempenich (Slinger WI) – Educational Studies; Allison Hofland (Elgin MN) – Elementary Ed; Emma Schibbelhut (Onalaska WI) – Elementary Ed; Anastasia Bornschlegl (Rochester MN) – Elementary Ed; Jessica Stibb (Beaver Dam WI) – Early Childhood Ed. Back row: Benjamin Baganz (Fond du Lac WI) – Educational Studies; Jacob Klug (Juneau WI) – Bachelor of Arts; Aaron Swanson (Rochester MN) – Secondary Social Studies Ed; James Penrod (San Antonio TX) – Educational Studies; Nathanael Lindloff (Lansing MI) – K-12 PE; Benjamin Ristow (New Ulm MN) – Staff Ministry Certification.

Four graduates received assignments at midyear:

- Abigail Braun '18 (Crofton NE) to Mt. Calvary Lutheran Academy-Flagstaff AZ: EC teacher
- Sarah Quinn '19 (Wisconsin Dells WI) to East Fork Lutheran School-Whiteriver AZ: Gr 2 (six-month call)
- Emma Schneck (Monroe MI) to St. Philip-Milwaukee: Gr 4 (six-month call)

• Aaron Swanson (Rochester MN) to St. Paul-Tomah WI: Upper Grades (six-month call)

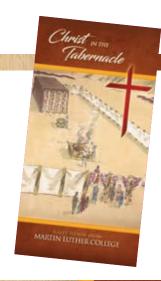
Christ in the Tabernacle, Our Newest Devotional for You

The tabernacle (and ultimately the two temples that took its place) provided God's people with a place to worship and fellowship with him. Its structure and its furnishings provided shadows that would finally be fulfilled in the Messiah.

Christ in the Tabernacle consists of eight devotions for Palm Sunday through Easter, each explaining a component of the tabernacle and how Christ fulfilled all that was foreshadowed there.

Go to mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions to access MLC devotions in multiple ways:

- Download or read them online
- Request that we send them to your personal email on a daily basis, April 5-12
- Listen to podcasts read by the authors





Amy Torgerson DMLC 1985 Woodville WI



Andaiye Smith MLC 2005 Georgetown Guyana



Andrew Retberg MLC 2000 Saginaw MI



Bryan Schneck DMLC 1990 Benton Harbor MI







Fire and Energy for the Gospel

Engaging skeptics, evangelizing in honor/shame cultures, reaching Mormons, using schools for outreach, ministering to the military—these were just some of the many topics presented to students at this year's Evangelism Day on January 15.

The morning opened with worship as **Pastor Eric Roecker** *WLS* '98, director for the WELS Commission on Evangelism, preached on John 18:37, "Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." Then students chose from two dozen electives presented by guest speakers involved in

ministries across the country. Two evening electives were open to the public, and the day closed with a Spanish/English worship service.

"Evangelism Day is filled with energy and fire for the gospel," says **Maddy Leckwee** (*Trinity-West Bend WI*). "It makes you excited for the work you are training to do."

We're grateful the following speakers were willing to share their expertise and their personal stories, encouraging students to communicate Christ in their personal lives and their public ministries.

Ben Clemons Kelly Mellgren Michael Geiger Johnston Joel Seifert Geoff Cortright Paul Grubbs Paul Koester Bill Monday Jessica Spiegelberg Brian Davison Mike Hartman Jon Leach Jon Quinn Ross Stelljes Cheryl Loomis Donn Dobberstein Cindi Holman Tom Plitzuweit Mike Tracy Ion Enter Phil Huebner Dave Malnes Iim Rademan Aaron Wakeman (pictured top) Jason Jaspersen Jill McKinley Eric Roecker Kevin Festerling Andrew & Cindy Josh Mears Jon Schroeder



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The campus family commemorated MLK Day January 20 with a special worship service and presentation.

Rev. Brady Coleman WLS '00 (left), pastor at Siloah-Milwaukee, led our worship, and he and Chuqee Fletcher MLC '12 (right), director of Lighthouse Garden Homes-Milwaukee, spoke to students about specific applications of MLK Day to the public ministry of the gospel.



Carissa Kock MLC 2015 Johnson City



Carol Nolte DMLC 1965 New Ulm MN



Catharyn Waggoner MLC 2010 Fort Madison IA



Cheri Zagurski DMLC 1980 Omaha NE

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE



Big Fish

Rebecca Heyer (*Immanuel-Greenville WI*) and **Luke Schultz** (*First-Lake Geneva WI*) led the cast in MLC Forum's heart-wrenching and hilarious production of *Big Fish November 1-3*.



STEM & M at MLC

Seeds of Science

By Kara Peter '22 (St. James-Portage MI)

It was a beautiful day, but members of the STEM&M club (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math & Ministry) weren't in the neighborhood. Instead, they took a trip to Minneopa State Park.

"Our group was collecting the seeds of a plant called big bluestem," says club president **Sofia Spiegelberg** (*Saving Grace-Mobile AL*). "Minnesota is working on restoring its native grasslands, and we were a part of that process by collecting and cleaning the seeds to be replanted somewhere else."

Noah Arnold (*St Paul-Oconto Falls WI*) adds, "It was a great opportunity to experience a little bit of practical botany and ecology while also getting to help promote these native plants and be good stewards of the earth God's given us."

STEM&M doesn't stop at seeds. They host monthly STEM challenges for the student body and are assembling a new 3D printer. Other plans include getting local schools involved and organizing STEM-related outings for MLC students.



Christmas at MLC

The Männerchor joined the College Choir, Chorale, Women's Choir, Wind Symphony, and Hosanna Ringers to present "Joy Has Dawned," music of the Savior's birth, *December 7-8.*



Cory Hahnke NWC 1995 West Bend WI



Dane Mattes MLC 2005 Fairfield OH



Daniel Moll MLC 2000 Milwaukee WI



David Baumann DMLC 1995 Bemidji MN

To share with a high school student who may be considering the pastoral ministry

here on the

Preseminary Studies at Martin Luther College

By **Kara Peter** (St. James-Portage MI) Adapted from KnightWatch Weekly

A Day in the Life of a Preseminary Student

Jack Vogel (*MLS / Holy Trinity-Wyoming MI*) plays football in the fall (*pictured*) and baseball in the spring. He enjoys cards and video games, sings in Männerchor, and is always down for a game of pickup basketball.

Jack is also a first-year preseminary student here at MLC. Curious as to what your life could look like if you came to MLC next year? Here's what Jack does on a normal weekday:

- **6:45 am** Jack wakes up, looks over Greek notes, and eats breakfast.
- 7:30 Greek class! Later, there may be lit, history, Bible, or Latin.
- 10:30 Students and profs gather for morning chapel.
- 11:30 Jack heads over to the Music Center to sing in Männerchor (men's choir) or practice organ before lunch.
- **3:00 pm** Time to hit the fitness center or weight room for a workout.



6:30 – After a bit of homework or relaxation, Jack grabs dinner in the caf.

7:15 – On Monday-Friday evenings, chapel sets a great tone for the night.

7:45 – Jack finishes up homework in the library, then hangs out with friends.

9:30 – A great day ends with a game of pickup basketball in the gym.

11:00 – Jack looks over a

few notes for the next day and gets some sleep.

"College classes are harder than high school," Jack says, "but you learn to embrace the challenge. Everyone has the same faith and purpose: to become a called worker." As for Greek, "It's fun but difficult. You start out with classical works, but in only a couple months, you've learned enough to read parts of the Bible in Greek!"

Another preseminary first-year, **Logan Schultz** (*MLS / Good Shepherd-Alma MI*), has lit, statistics, German, Chinese, and—of course—Greek in his schedule. He says, "Greek isn't the three-headed beast that a lot of students have in their minds at the start of the year. After you set a good foundation, the class does get easier. My encouragement is to not let hard work discourage you from a truly blessed calling."



College Students' 411 on Language Choices

All preseminary students take Greek and Hebrew, the biblical languages. They also choose one nonbiblical language. Here's what students say about those:

LATIN: "Latin may be a dead language, but it's still alive in many regards (scientific names, Harry Potter, and your church hymnal)!"

- **Andrew Ronholt** (Evergreen LHS / Bethany-Port Orchard WA)

GERMAN: "Dive in head first! The culture is awesome, so if you buy into what you're learning, it's much more rewarding."

- Noah Schaewe (Huron Valley LHS / Faith-Sussex WI)

CHINESE: "Repeat everything aloud to practice thinking in Chinese and improve your pronunciation."

- Logan Schultz (MLS / Good Shepherd-Alma MI)

SPANISH: "This immersive program allows us to learn more than just grammar. We look forward to using it in our ministries."

- **Jonas Landwehr** (DSA / Divine Savior-Doral FL)



David Scherbarth NWC 1970 Janesville WI



Donald Nessler NWC 1960 Cudahy WI



Douglas Scherschel NWC 1975 Milwaukee WI



Edgar Gieschen NWC 1955 Fort Atkinson



Showcasing International Students

By Kara Peter '22 (St. James-Portage MI) Adapted from KnightWatch Weekly

It's true—most of MLC's student body calls the Midwest home, but we do enroll students from across the country and the entire globe. Our 12 international students this year (*pictured*) hail from Antigua and Barbuda, China, Colombia, South Korea, Vietnam, and Ukraine.

During International Education Week, our students got to know their international peers and gained insight into the diverse cultures they may encounter in their future ministries. They attended presentations by their international friends, learned about opportunities to study and serve abroad, answered questions at international trivia night, and participated in an international badminton tournament.

And the caf staff stepped up too. With the international students' help, they offered different international foods every night, mixing up the regular menu with everything from empanadas to egg drop soup, from fried plantain to borscht.

One of our internationals is Juan Escobar (pictured), a grad of Divine Savior Academy originally from Colombia. Why would a Colombian choose snowy New Ulm? Juan's answer is this: "I am very social. I like talking to people. That's one of my passions. And on top of that, sharing God's Word and the gospel of Jesus. So there's no better career than to be a pastor and no better place to study for that than at MLC.

"Everywhere in the world, everyone is different," he adds. "Everyone has different ideas, different cultures, different beliefs. You just have to understand them and be respectful."

Whether you're from Milwaukee or Beijing, MLC is a place to grow in faith and prepare for the ministry. Here we're all united in our calling to serve Christ.

Meet four of our international students on pages 8-9.



Edili Pichardo MLC 2015 Bronx NY



Elaine Vetter DMLC 1950 Milwaukee WI



Elise Wordell MLC 2010 Kenosha WI



Erin Eckert MLC 2000 Tucson AZ



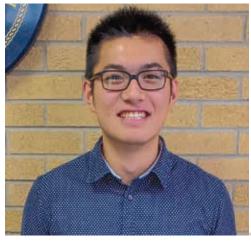
Juan David Escobar

Colombia

First-year / Preseminary Studies

"One of my passions is to meet new cultures and network with people. And I love spreading the gospel. There's no better place than MLC to encourage my passions and make me a great pastor."

When Juan David Escobar—he prefers JuanDa—and his mom fled the violence of Colombia to live in Miami, they had no idea JuanDa would one day move 1800 miles further north, to Minnesota.



Jiacheng (Nic) Liu

China

Fifth-year Senior / Secondary Math & Physics Education

"I don't know how to describe what really turned my heart. I think that was just God's plan."

The first time Shanghai native Jiacheng Liu heard the name of Jesus was in Watertown, South Dakota.

Jiacheng, who goes by Nic, was a high school junior who had signed up for a foreign exchange program, not realizing he'd be enrolled at a little Lutheran high



Yiling (Sophie) Leng China

Senior / Elementary Education

"My high school teachers inspired me with their dedication to their jobs and their passion for Christ. It made me want to be a teacher like them."

When Yiling Leng was a little girl in Hangzhou, China, curiosity led her to reach for a strange book sitting on a shelf. It was a Bible. When she opened its pages, though, what she found was not its life-changing message but a big, hairy spider. She slammed it shut and



Sora Lee South Korea

Fifth-year Senior / Elementary Education & Secondary Math Education "I really appreciate the small community at MLC. Having professors who know you personally helps a lot in college life."

Sora Lee is quick to verbalize what every international student—every human being, really—knows in their heart: Relationships matter.

When she came to California Lutheran, it was her relationship with her teacher April Cook that made all the difference.

Thank Divine Savior Academy, the Lutheran high school where JuanDa says he heard the gospel every day, grew closer to God, and realized what he wanted to do with his life: "One of my passions is to meet new cultures and network with people. And I love spreading the gospel. There's no better place than MLC to encourage my passions and make me a great pastor."

Although JuanDa isn't a fan of Minnesota

cold, he does love the snow! And the people here are plenty warm. "People here make you feel like you have a new family," he says. "It's amazing. They care about you, they worry about you, they want to make sure you don't die in the winter"

JuanDa has high hopes for college. "I hope our cross country team wins conference. I hope I pass my Greek class with an A. I hope to develop my English speaking and writing skills. I hope to learn many of the aspects that make a great pastor. I'm looking forward to the seminary. And I'm very excited to see where God puts me to work, and the things he will allow me to accomplish in his name. It will be awesome."



school in the American Midwest.

That year at Great Plains LHS was pivotal, marked by a new book called the Bible, a new faith, a baptism, and a confirmation.

"It was interesting because I never really learned about Christianity before," Nic says. "I don't know how to describe what really turned my heart. I think that was just God's plan. I decided to be baptized after Christmas."

God's plan—with the influence of his teacher, Jeff Roloff, and his host family, Matt and Jody Roberts—led him to Martin Luther College as well. Although his parents, who are not Christian, still have a difficult time understanding his decision to serve in the ministry, they support him.

And it looks as though God's plan also includes a very hectic May 2020. Nic and hear their ministry assignment on May 16, and nine days later they'll be married.

his fiancée, senior Kayla Rosenbaum, will

vowed never to open a Bible again.

God had other plans. Through English classes taught by Friends of China, Yiling learned about the hero of that book, Jesus, and she dared to read more. Eventually she came to America, attended Michigan Lutheran Seminary, and heard about MLC, a college that would show her how to share the story of Jesus with others. "

My high school teachers inspired me with their dedication to their jobs and their passion for Christ," she says. "It made me want to be a teacher like them."

At MLC, Yiling, who goes by Sophie, jumped into campus life, working as a photographer, singing in College Choir, and studying Spanish. She also served off-campus, doing hurricane cleanup in Florida and teaching math and Spanish literacy in Mexico.

The Bible is no longer a scary book. In fact, Sophie is eager to graduate and be assigned to a classroom where she can open the

Bible and tell the life-changing story of Jesus every day.

"I was nervous because of the cultural differences and language barrier. She helped me through all my obstacles and encouraged me to stay in America." April also encouraged Sora on a career path. "I decided to become a teacher like her," Sora says, "not only to help students academically but also to guide them through their hardships."

At Cal Lutheran, by the power of the Spirit, Sora developed an even more

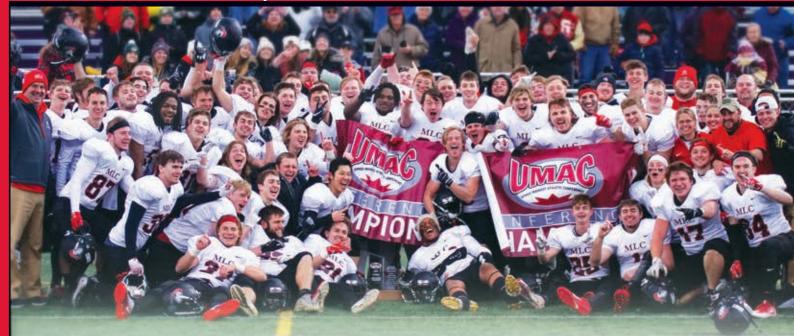
important relationship—with her Savior. "I became a Christian after going to Cal Lu and hearing God's Words. I knew who Jesus was because I went to a church with my friend in South Korea when I was young. But it was more of trying it out for fun than being serious and believing it."

Now Sora's at MLC, and once again, the relationships make it meaningful: "I really appreciate the small community at MLC. Having professors who know you

personally helps a lot in college life."

She'll finish her double major in 2020, and she hopes God will have her teach somewhere in the States. At some school, somewhere, there will be students who need a strong relationship with their teacher—and with the Savior she tells them about.

Focus On Sports



Back-to-Back Championships for the Knights

By Michael Gibbons, Sports Information Director

The MLC football team shocked the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) in 2018 by winning the conference with a perfect 8-0 record just two years removed from going 0-10 during the 2016 season.

In 2019, the Knights validated that accomplishment with its second consecutive UMAC championship as they finished 9-2 overall and 8-0 in league play.

Following a season-opening loss at Gustavus Adolphus, MLC won nine straight games to close the season and secured its second straight berth in the NCAA Division III Championship. The Knights drew Wheaton College, ranked number three in the nation by the website D3football.com, and the Thunder advanced with a 51-7 win.

MLC dominated conference opponents in 2019, leading the league in points per game, total offense per game, and rushing yards per game on both offense and defense. The defense also led the UMAC in passing yards allowed, sacks, and interceptions.

The offense featured the nation's number-three ranked rushing attack, which averaged 319.5 yards per game. Junior **Joshuah Kren (1)** (*Trinity-Waukesha WI*) was named UMAC Most Valuable Offensive Player after rushing for 1,111 yards and 14 touchdowns. He finished the season with an MLC single-season record 1,591 total yards from scrimmage to go with 20 total touchdowns, and was also named Second Team All-West Region by D3football.com.

Junior **Austin DeNoyer** (*St. Paul-Lake Mills WI*) won UMAC Most Valuable Offensive Player in 2018, and built on that season in 2019 by breaking his own MLC single-season record for rushing yards with 1,382 and 11 touchdowns.

Both Kren and DeNoyer were named First Team All-UMAC, and teammates **Andrew Owczarzak** (*Bethel-Bay City MI*), **Carrington Cunningham** (*WISCO*), **Sam Boeder** (*St. John-New Ulm MN*), **Derek Gulrud** (*St. John-Waterloo WI*), and **Mike Radue** (*Mt. Calvary-Waukesha WI*) also earned All-Conference honors on offense.



Ethan Steinbrenner NWC 1985 Fond du Lac WI



Fred Grunewald NWC 1965 Watertown WI



Gayle Stelling DMLC 1970 Millville MN



Glory Ann Hillmer DMLC 1960 Kenosha WI

The defense was led by eight senior starters. The class that started their careers 0-10 were the foundation for the UMAC's top defense, which also ranked 10th in all of NCAA Division III in total defense.

Safety **Ian Paulsen** (*St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI*) was named UMAC Most Valuable Defensive Player for his versatility after recording 80 tackles, 7.0 tackles for loss, three interceptions, and seven pass break-ups.

"The seniors' work ethic and leadership has set the tone for our program both now and in the future." - Coach Mark Stein

Seniors **Tristan Pankow** (*Trinity-Bay City MI*), **Jacob Schmidt** (3) (*St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI*), **Nate Holz** (*Beautiful Savior-Clarksville TN*), and **Joe Herrewig (2)** (*Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI*) joined Paulsen in receiving All-UMAC recognition, along with sophomores **Aiden Holien** (*St. Martin-Watertown SD*) and **Ben Riegsecker (2)** (*Mt. Olive-Lincoln NE*).

Micah Otto (*Salem-Milwaukee*) and Benjamin Hodel (*St. Paul-Lake Mills WI*) earned All-UMAC honors on special teams, giving the Knights 16 total All-Conference honorees. That total is the most by any UMAC program in a single season since 2014.

While the senior class that started at the bottom and finished with back-to-back UMAC championships departs, Head Coach Mark Stein believes part of their legacy is the tone they've set for the program.

"The seniors' work ethic and leadership has set the tone for our program both now and in the future," Stein said.
"We hope our players learn they can take that with them as future coaches and ministers of the gospel. Their legacy, the program's legacy, is rooted in our faith and our goals:

Serve. Trust. Win!"





Coach Mark Stein DMLC '92 took the Knights to their second consecutive berth in the NCAA Division III Championship playoffs. "Winning back-to-back championships," Stein says, "means that the hard work and dedication by everyone in our program is a blessing now and in the future when these young men go into ministry and have their own teams. Their team may be in football or a faculty or a parish, but they will be great leaders ready to serve."





James Fricke NWC 1950 Wauwatosa WI



James Plocher NWC 1990 Marshall WI



James Schuppenhauer NWC 1970 Beaver Dam WI



Janet Hill DMLC 1975 Inkster MI

Focus On Sports



Throughout the course of Martin Luther College's history, one of the elements that makes its athletic teams different from other college teams across the country is the prevalence of the multi-sport athlete.

During the 2017-18 school year, 57 MLC student-athletes participated in at least two sports, and the Knights consistently feature more than 50 multi-sport athletes in a given year. This year, the men's and women's basketball teams feature 11 student-athletes who participated in fall sports, and at least three more who plan to participate in spring sports.

Many of the Knights' best athletes in the history of the school have played multiple sports. Men's Basketball Coach Greg Holzhueter (2007-11) holds school records in football (career completion percentage), basketball (career steals), and baseball (career hits). Sarah Free (2008-12) is the softball team's all-time leader in hits and doubles, and also ranks second in women's basketball program history in career three-point field goals.

This season, **Austin DeNoyer** (*St. Paul-Lake Mills WI*) broke his own

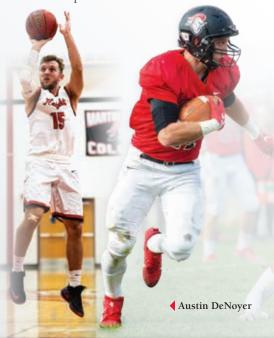
MLC single-season rushing record with 1,382 yards and was named First Team All-UMAC for the second straight season, while Ian Paulsen (St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI) was named UMAC Most Valuable Defensive Player on the gridiron. Just 11 days after the football team's defeat at Wheaton in the opening round of the NCAA Division III Championships on November 23, the two combined to score 30 points and grab 16 rebounds for the basketball team against Bethany Lutheran.

Kati Aguilar (*Christ the Vine-Temecula CA*) led the MLC volleyball team in kills for the second consecutive season, and is also playing her second season as a starting forward on the basketball team.

Athletic Director Jim Unke DMLC '83 is a strong advocate for the multi-sport athlete and makes sure the transition for those athletes from one sport to the next is as seamless as possible.

"Our students who participate in more than one sport get the opportunity to experience things that can prepare them even more for the ministry as pastors, teachers, and future coaches," Unke said. "That experience is something we put tremendous value in, and it's the reason why we work very hard to ensure our student-athletes have these opportunities."

Head Track & Field Coach Doug Lange WLS '82 has seen not only the benefit of having multi-sport athletes in his program, but also the benefit his program can have for athletes competing in other sports.





Jeanine Heller DMLC 1980 Arlington Heights IL



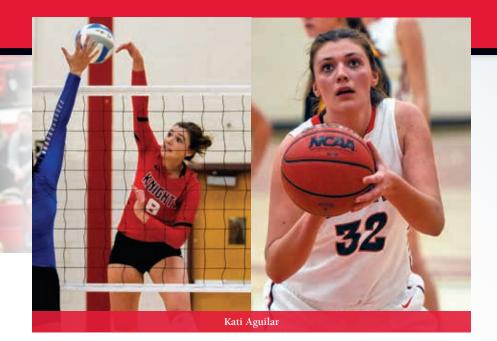
Jeffrey Timm DMLC 1985 Milwaukee WI



Jeremiah Strassburg MLC 2015 Phoenix AZ



Jessica Leonard MLC 2005 West Richland



"In track and field, you want to run faster, jump higher, and throw further than your competitor," Lange said. "Faster, higher, further! These are great qualities for track and field, but all our teams benefit from the same athletic characteristics.

"Many of our best throwers (shot, hammer, discus) have played football on the offensive or defensive line," he added. "Some of our best sprinters have played soccer and football. Our best distance runners often come from our cross country team. Many best jumpers have played volleyball and basketball."

Along with the physical improvements that can help an athlete improve from one sport to another, **Head Volleyball Coach Rebecca Cox** *DMLC* '89 believes the experiences gained also help in other areas.

"By playing multiple sports, athletes can continue to develop leadership, communication, and mental toughness skills, such as resiliency and decision making under pressure," Cox said. "Lessons that are learned about team chemistry can also be transferable to any team."

As a multi-sport athlete, Aguilar believes the benefits go beyond the lessons learned on the court.

"For me, being involved in two sports has helped my time management skills," Aguilar said. "That's something that's crucial in any profession but especially in full-time ministry. I'm getting six months of practice for that each year."

On top of these advantages, DeNoyer believes that what makes it most worthwhile is one of the simplest reasons.

"It's just fun to compete," DeNoyer said. "It's fun to compete in different sports and to build relationships with your teammates over the course of those seasons. It's been a great experience for me."

Fall All-UMAC

*I - 1st Team *II - 2nd Team *HM – Honorable Mention

FOOTBALL

Joshuah Kren (Trinity-Waukesha WI) – Most Valuable Offensive Player, I Ian Paulsen (St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI) -Most Valuable Defensive Player, I Carrington Cunningham (WISCO) - I Austin DeNoyer (St. Paul-Lake Mills WI) – I Joe Herrewig (Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI) – I Andrew Owczarzak (Bethel-Bay City MI) – I Tristan Pankow (Trinity-Bay City MI) - I Jacob Schmidt (St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI) - I Sam Boeder (St. John-New Ulm MN) – II Derek Gulrud (St. John-Waterloo WI) - II Benjamin Hodel (St. Paul-Lake Mills WI) – II Aiden Holien (St. Martin-Watertown SD) – II Nate Holz (Beautiful Savior-Clarksville TN) - II Micah Otto (Salem-Milwaukee) - II Mike Radue (Mt. Calvary-Waukesha WI) - II Ben Riegsecker (Mt. Olive-Lincoln NE) – II

MEN'S GOLF

Zackary Zuberbier (St. Jacobi-Greenfield WI) – I Stephen Biebert (St. John-Neillsville WI) – HM Kyle Lindemann (St. John-Lewiston MN) – HM

WOMEN'S GOLF

Alison Lindemann (St. John-Lewiston MN) - I

MEN'S SOCCER

Joe Graumann (St. Paul-Fort Atkinson WI) – I James Nitz (Crown of Life-Lilongwe, Malawi) – II Josh Higgins (St. Mark-Watertown WI) – HM Clay Hirsch (St. John-Jefferson WI) – HM

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Courtney Ritter (St. Paul-Stevensville MI) – I Lydia Bitter (St. Mark-Bemidji MN) – II Mollie Fischer (St. John-Burlington WI) – II Mary Falck (Bethlehem-Menomonee Falls WI) – HM Sarah Kjenstad (Trinity-Aberdeen SD) – HM

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Abigail Buege (Victory of the Lamb-Katy TX) - I

Academic All-UMAC

MLC finished the fall sports season with 85 Academic All-UMAC honorees, the second highest in MLCs history and second best among the nine UMAC schools, trailing only the 99 honorees from St. Scholastica.

MLC also finished the fall season with the highest team GPA in four of the eight sports: women's golf (3.868), women's soccer (3.652), men's soccer (3.312), and football (2.934).



John Carter NWC 1980 Lemont IL



John Gensmer NWC 1995 Saginaw MI



John Hardman DMLC 1965 Clare MI



Jordan Schmitzer MLC 2010 Arlington OH



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

Be All You Can Be

to the Glory of God

Professional growth as a reflective Christian educator and an educational leader is readily accessible through a trusted ministry partner, Martin Luther College. Our graduate programs are designed for those who want to make a positive difference in their churches, schools, and communities. Begin today to impact your present area of service, prepare for new ministry opportunities, and be all you can be to the glory of God.



"My master's degree from MLC changed my entire ministry. Without the Lord's guidance and wisdom and the knowledge I gained from my degree, I don't think I'd have the skill set to fulfill this call at West LHS."

David GartnerPrincipal
West Lutheran High School



"I believe ongoing professional development is key to achieving excellence in ministry and avoiding stagnation in the important work that we are called to do."

Rendy Koeppel Principal

St. Paul First-North Hollywood CA

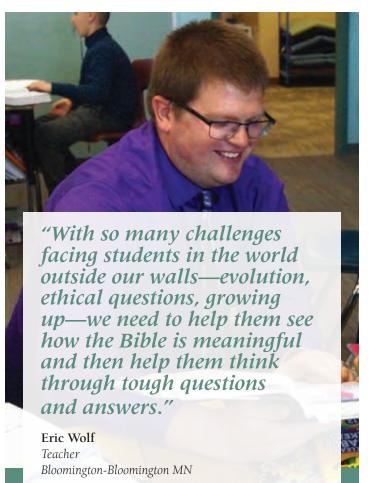


"I've become a more effective teacher, and my congregation benefits. They see firsthand that their teachers are concerned with honing their skills."

Cynthia Lange

Teacher

St. Luke-Vassar MI

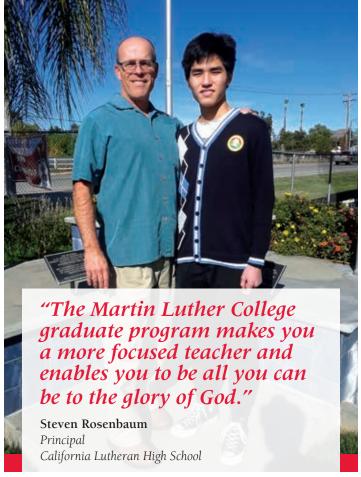


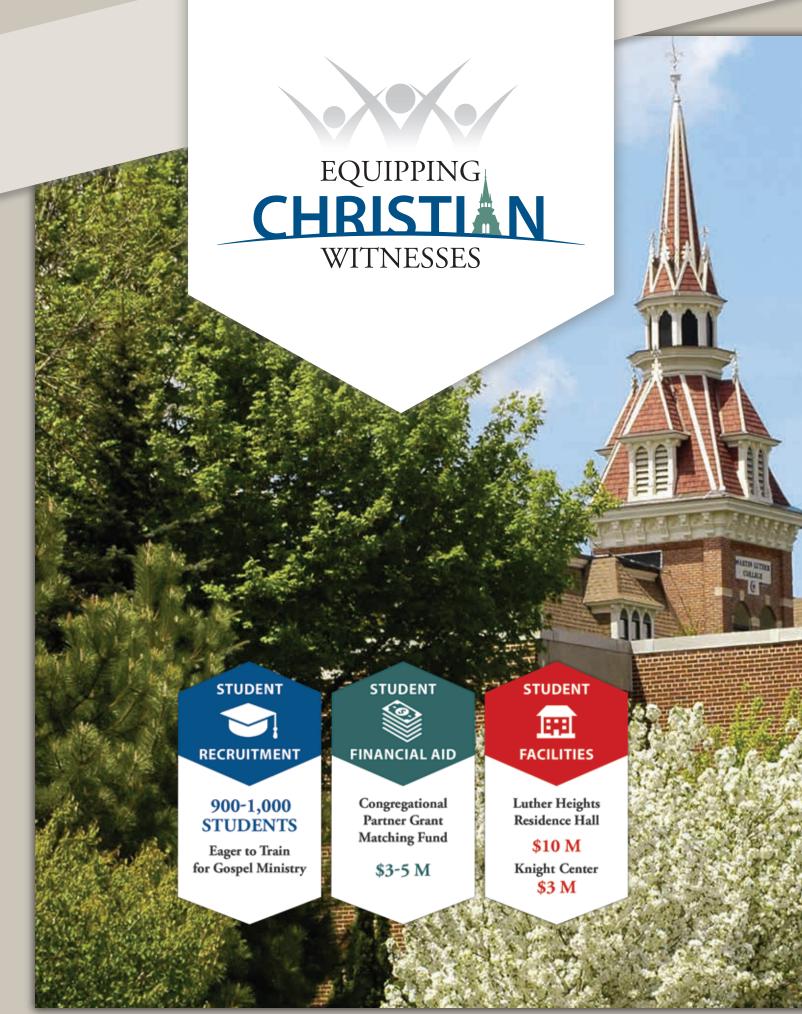


"It's given me a more complete understanding of theology and better equipped me to be a leader."

Dr. Kristi MeyerMathematics Professor
Wisconsin Lutheran College









Thank you From President Mark Zarling

Every workday I see the names. There are names of people from all over the country and occasionally from overseas. Each name is known by Jesus.

With each name a gift is listed, a thank-offering to Jesus designated for the ministry at MLC.

Even though most names are a mystery to me, I know specific things about each one of them. I know they love Jesus, for they have sent an offering over and above their regular offerings to support gospel work. I know they love precious souls, for they are investing in the Great Commission.

These Christian people are eager to see future pastors and teachers and staff ministers trained, that they may join the corps of Christian witnesses to herald the precious message: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."

I'm grateful to Jesus for the outpouring of generosity after only a few months of the **EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES** campaign, and this in addition to the gifts given for operating support and for scholarship support.

I'm grateful to Jesus and boldly ask that you continue to pray for the ECW campaign and partner with your college.

With your help we will re-energize our **RECRUITMENT** of students, provide even more **FINANCIAL AID**, and equip our students with enhanced and enlarged **FACILITIES**. By the grace of God, EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES will positively impact ministry for the 21st century!

☆ ECW Campaign Toolbox

Promote this campaign in your congregations!

Order or download promotional materials: *Casebooks, bulletin inserts, posters, digital slides, etc.*

mlc-wels.edu/ecw-toolbox

Download materials to celebrate your own ECW Sunday: *Orders of worship*, *sermons*, *prayers*, *and more!* mlc-wels.edu/ecw-sunday

mlc-wels.edu/ecw-toolbox



17



900-1,000 STUDENTS EAGER TO TRAIN FOR GOSPEL MINISTRY

Your Questions on Recruitment



Answered by President Mark Zarling

Why is recruitment a part of this campaign?

You may already be aware of the vacancies in pulpits and classrooms

in our church body. After assignment days last May, significant vacancies remained—more than 100 pastoral vacancies in our pulpits and over 80 classrooms not yet filled.

There is also an urgency to recruit more gospel workers because of the large classes of baby boomers reaching retirement age.

It is important to note, however, that the strategic plan of MLC is to recruit students with a fields-are-ripe mentality and not with a fill-the-vacancy mindset. Our gracious Savior God is pouring out abundant opportunities around the world and here at home to send workers out with the message of Jesus, our Savior and Substitute. May the Spirit fill our hearts with a burning passion to see the billions around the world who have yet to hear the Savior's loving voice in the saving gospel.

How can WELS members help with recruitment?

No doubt you can think of daughters and sons in your own congregation who exhibit God-given gifts for ministry. Encourage them. Tell them, "You're a magnet for little children. Ever think about being a Christian preschool teacher?" Or "God has given you a gift for (music, athletics, speaking, etc.). I can see you using that gift in serving Jesus as a (teacher, staff minister, pastor)." Perhaps "God has given you a heart for Jesus and a heart for people. Have you thought about being a pastor?"

Also pray! Pray without ceasing!

Adapted from Forward in Christ, December 2019

forwardinchrist.net

Open Doors

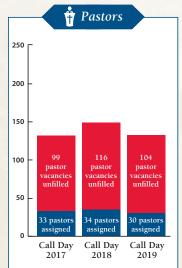
The Holy Spirit has opened huge doors for WELS in Asia, Africa, and the Americas—and at home as well.

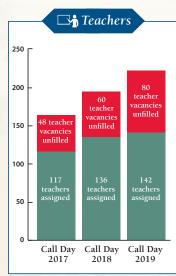
- New home missions open every year, some with schools and preschools.
- Urban schools, spurred by Parental Choice laws, are outgrowing their facilities and faculties.
- Preschools—almost 400 of them!—are proving wonderful seeding grounds for the gospel.

We need more Christian witnesses! We need trained pastors, teachers, and staff ministers to seize these new opportunities to impact the world with the Word.



Q Current Vacancies







for us to take in those kids and work with those families. If we don't have the people ready to serve and we have to cut back on ministry, then we're not going to be ready when those families come."

the ideas and inspiration of these three called workers and many more: Daniel Albrecht (Kettle Moraine LHS), Luke Rosenbaum (Luther HS), Nathan and Hannah Graumann (Apostles-San Jose), Santiago Botero (St. Paul/First-North Hollywood CA), Rev. Nathan Zastrow (Grace-Yakima WA), Joe Rodewald (Luther Prep School), Hannah Uher (Lakeside LHS), Rev. Jon Buchholz (Emmanuel-Tempe AZ), Ruth Buchholz (Kingdom Prep LHS), Rev. Gregory Bork (Apostles-San Jose CA), Rev. Evan Chartrand (Luther Prep School), Emily Muir (Luther Prep School), and Jacob Lash (Illinois LHS).

Whether you're a parent or grandparent, a pastor or teacher, or simply a congregation member with a heart for ministry, this video answers the question:

"How can I help recruit the next generation of called workers?"

Hannah Uher Lakeside LHS - Lake Mills, WI

Everyone a Recruiter

"Recruitment for ministry will be an ongoing responsibility of the church until Jesus returns," says **Rev. Dave Wenzel** WLS '86 (Fox Valley LHS). "We need another generation of called workers who will someday sit across a desk or stand in front of a classroom or preach from a pulpit and share that good news of Jesus."

Joel Walker '99 (Grace-Glendale AZ) agrees. Things are changing in our society, and there's a lot of people looking for what we have, and they just don't quite know what it is. We want to be ready when that opportunity comes forward

And **Rev. Jonathan Bilitz** *WLS* '96 (Wisconsin Lutheran Chapel-Madison) reminds us that everyone, every congregation member, is a recruiter: "I don't think you can overestimate the importance of a congregation member saying to a young person in the congregation: 'I think God has given you the gifts to think about being a pastor or teacher.' The first person who said that to me—I think I was maybe in seventh grade. I fought it for a while. I thought God maybe had a different plan for me. But those words were hard to get away

from. . . . That is a very, very powerful impact."

MLC videographer **Michael Wu** '21 features



Watch the video at mlc-wels.edu/go/encouragement. Or use your phone's QR code scanner to open it right here!



ABOUT OUR VIDEOGRAPHER:

Michael Wu (*Redeemer-San Diego*) works closely with Public Relations Director **Bill Pekrul** *DMLC* '80 to create promotional videos for many different departments at MLC. Michael took the 2019-2020 school year off to do this work, but he'll be back in fall 2020 to finish his education degree.

CHRISTIAN



900-1,000 STUDENTS EAGER TO TRAIN FOR GOSPEL MINISTRY

You Pointed Me to MLC!

"Hey, Pastor Bilitz, thank you so much for encouraging me to use my gifts in the ministry. Your impact in my life is a huge reason I'm here at MLC now, preparing to be a pastor." **Cameron Schroeder** (*St. Paul-Onalaska WI*)

That thank-you message is just one of dozens and dozens that MLC students recorded for those all-important influencers in their life—people with names like Mrs. Wasser, Mr. Asmus, Professor Kieselhorst, Pastor Heise—and of course, Mom, Dad, Grandpa, and Grandma.

In this video, our students express their gratitude to their home congregations too—places like Divine Peace-Garland and Rockwall TX, Faith-Sharpsburg GA, and Hope-Toronto.



Watch the video at mlc-wels.edu/go/thanks.

Or use your phone's QR code scanner to open it right here!

And then please encourage a high school student you know to try Martin Luther College. You have more influence than you realize



Becca Doering '20 (St. Paul-Lake Mills WI):

"Mr. Andy Rosenau at Lakeside helped me to see, in the light of the Bible, that while ministry was not the only way God could use me, he had given me the talents and abilities to at least give ministry a try."



Leah Plocher '21

(St. Luke-Vassar MI):

"I was very influenced by my grade school teachers, Cynthia and John Lange and Corin Einhardt. I saw their love for their ministry and how much they wanted us to succeed. As I watched them, I saw that teaching wasn't a job, but a joy for them."



Austin Claflin '21 (Salem-Sturgeon Bay WI):

"Since I was in public school, Pastor Seelman was my biggest influence. He knew MLC was something I was considering, and he was always there to answer my questions about ministry. My family and congregation also encouraged me."



Joey Behm '22 (Morning Star-Jackson WI):

"Many teachers and coaches at Kettle Moraine LHS—people I looked up to as role models—encouraged me to attend MLC and pursue the public ministry. My grandparents' influence and positive impact on me were also significant."



CONGREGATIONAL
PARTNER GRANT
PARTCHING FUND \$3-5 M
MATCHING FUND

Your Questions on Financial Assistance



Answered by Vice President Michael Otterstatter

Do most MLC students graduate with debt?

Over the past five years, about 75 percent of our graduates have left with an average of \$25,000 in loans.

Why is MLC tuition so high?

MLC's tuition actually is dramatically lower than other similar four-year colleges. However, the net price students actually pay—tuition, room, board, and other expenses minus financial aid—is nearly the same. That's because MLC doesn't offer as much financial aid. MLC started the Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP) about four years ago to help meet this need.

How will my gift help students pay for college?

Your gift will help fund the CPGP matching fund.

Think of this program like two buckets. The first is the bucket of dollars congregations send in on behalf of their sons and daughters. The other bucket is money others give to allow MLC to match those gifts. Gifts to EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES will fill the matching bucket for the next five to ten years as we work to make this a regular part of our budget.

Why is this pillar of the campaign so important?

All three pillars of the campaign really fit together. Under God's blessing, we're asking for more called workers to meet ministry needs and opportunities all over the world. If we're planning on growth and praying for growth, we also need to have financial aid ready so these students can afford to attend and don't leave with too much debt. Finally, we need to provide facilities and housing space that will be a home away from home for our students now and in the future.

Adapted from Forward in Christ, December 2019

forwardinchrist.net

Here's How CPGP Works

Through CPGP, MLC matches dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000, the gift a congregation gathers to apply to the tuition of their student at MLC.

As a renewable effort, CPGP can provide four or five years of financial aid support—up to \$10,000 to each student—in addition to the other financial aid the student receives.

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
PARTNER CONGREGATIONS	80	150	250	275
STUDENTS RECEIVING GRANTS	100	250	450	600
CONGREGATIONAL GRANTS	\$90,000	\$200,000	\$375,000	\$500,000
MLC MATCHING FUNDS	\$90,000	\$200,000	\$375,000	\$500,000
TOTAL GRANT MONIES AWARDED TO STUDENTS	\$180,000	\$400,000	\$750,000	\$1,000,000

Dear members of Christ the Vine Lutheran Church,

I'm writing to thank you for your generous gift through the Congregational Partner Grant Program. Because of your generosity, I've been able to attend Martin Luther College for three years now. I've learned about best practices in early childhood education through teaching courses and general education courses, but more importantly, I've been surrounded by professors and classmates who share our common faith. I cannot begin to describe how great a blessing that is! Your gifts have also allowed me to play basketball and volleyball for three seasons now. The experiences and ministry training that I've gained through those two sports are unmatched.

I want to again thank you for this generous gift. The training of public ministers of the gospel would not be possible without people like you.

Serving in Christ, Kati Aguilar

Christ the Vine-Temecula CA







Luther Heights Residence Hall

The beautiful Luther Heights is modest but high-quality, providing our students both more personal space and more shared space for collaboration. Overlooking Summit Avenue, at the main entrance of our college, it will be a beautiful new focal point of the campus and a wonderful place for our students to call home—a place where they'll live, learn, and grow together as a Christian community.



The architectural design of Luther Heights respects the historic aesthetic of our campus, but also tips its hat to the future, especially with the striking glass Skyline Studies on the ends of each floor.

Knight Center

This 36,000-square-foot facility will provide for many of our athletic department's needs: locker rooms, batting cages, golf simulators, and yards and yards of artificial turf.



Please support EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES!

Your Questions on New Facilities



Answered by Vice President Scott Schmudlach

Why are these new facilities necessary?

Martin Luther College exists in a competitive marketplace. It might be nice if all 18-year-olds looking at MLC

were certain they wanted to be pastors or teachers, but many—even most—are not sure. They will choose a college that will help them continue to discover and develop their gifts while they decide their future. We'd like that college to be MLC. We want to show them that we care about the full development of all their Godgiven gifts, and we will supply the facilities that support that development. Right now, however, our campus facilities are in need of an update!

Luther Heights: As these visiting prospects walk around campus, the amenities provided in a college residence hall like Luther Heights can make a big impact. Residence halls like Luther Heights are the places where living and learning together occurs. They're the places of Bible studies and collaborative ministry projects, of personal growth and lifelong friendships. With one of the emphases of this campaign being recruitment, Luther Heights also will provide the rooms needed for the expanding enrollment we are anticipating.

Knight Center: Athletics and physical education are an important part of the MLC experience as well. For many years, however, we have not had adequate athletic space for our student body, our teams, or visiting teams. The Knight Center will expand the physical education curriculum to year-round, allow all spring sports to practice regularly, provide additional locker rooms, and multiply opportunities for the hundreds of students who use our fitness facilities every day. And for those students who are studying to be coaches and physical education teachers in WELS schools, athletics and physical education are ministry training.

Adapted from Forward in Christ, January 2020

forwardinchrist.net

Living Hope | Congregations in California and Virginia Lend Support

Steve and Carla Rosenbaum, both DMLC '86 graduates, are excited about EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES.

"The Lord of the Church is flinging wide new doors to ministry worldwide," Steve says. "We need trained workers to enter those fields."

The principal at California LHS and a member of the MLC Governing Board, Steve knows about the great need for more called workers, the extensive planning that took place before the campaign was launched, and the support the campaign has received so far.

He and Carla, a former kitchen manager at Cal Lutheran, wanted to lend their support as well. They issued a two-month \$10,000 challenge to their fellow members at Living Hope-Wildomar CA, offering \$5,000 of their own as matching funds.

We're grateful to Living Hope and to the Rosenbaums—who only reluctantly agreed to share their story, hoping others would be inspired to give as well.

"I'm confident the Lord will bless this effort!" Steve says.

Steve and Carla Rosenbaum have four children. A daughter, son, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law are MLC graduates: Nicole '11 (Julius Buelow '12), Brandon (Melissa Klemm), Benjamin (Alison Kolander '13), and Luke '17.

As members of Living Hope-Midlothian VA embarked on a \$450,000 capital campaign, they decided to widen the scope of their giving. Members are urged to designate 10% of their campaign gifts to another campaign: EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES at Martin Luther College.

Pastor Michael Seifert WLS '03, who also serves as an MLC Governing Board member, says the initiative is an expression of support for the synod's worker-training system, a reminder that ministry extends beyond their local congregation, and a mark of their reliance on God's promises to bless their giving abundantly.

"A significant percentage of our congregation comes from churches where in-depth teaching of God's Word and proclamation of the gospel are minimal or absent," Pastor Seifert says. "That's a distinguishing characteristic of our church.

It's the means by which the gospel is passed down from one generation to the next."

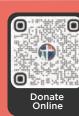
And that's where MLC's mission dovetails with that of Living Hope.

"Preparing a corps of Christian witnesses belongs to the core of our church body's identity and purpose," Seifert says. "Paul wrote, And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? To that we could rightly add, And how can anyone be sent unless they are prepared? That preparation is the mission of Martin Luther College."



Give quickly and conveniently online or use the envelope provided in this magazine.





Alumnu Focus On

DMLHS Class of 1959 Scholarship Fund



At their 60th reunion, the members of the Dr. Martin Luther High School Class of 1959 (pictured) prayerfully resolved to establish an endowment fund. Recognizing the high cost of college, coupled with the need for more WELS called workers, the class established the fund to provide financial assistance to students who demonstrate financial need.

The class members would like to praise and thank our gracious heavenly Father for blessing them with both the financial resources and the desire to support ministerial training even after their earthly lives have ended. They would also like to encourage other classes to consider establishing similar funds.

Alumni Tour Updates

Alumni tours are open to all WELS members and seek to provide affordable, enjoyable, and educational opportunities to travel together with like-minded believers. Contact Tour Director **Steve Balza** at **507.217.1731** or **alumni@mlc-wels.edu** if you'd like to be added to the mailing list.



O Canada: The July 10-25 O Canada trip to Vancouver, Victoria, Whistler, Revelstoke, Jasper, Banff, and Glacier National Park (pictured) is sold out. If you'd still like to come, sign up on the waitlist at mlc-wels.edu/alumni/tours.



O Canyonlands: A November 7-17, 2020, tour is in the works. O Canyonlands will take us to and through some of the spectacular canyons of Arizona and Utah. Highlights will include Grand Canyon, Antelope Canyon, Glen Canyon, Bryce Canyon (pictured), Zion Canyon, Arches, Capitol Reef, and of course Canyonlands National Park.

London and Paris: Next summer's plan takes us overseas for a visit to the beautiful and historic cities of London and Paris. A Eurostar train through the Chunnel and visits to Normandy, Oxford, Stonehenge, Bath, and the Cotswolds will add to the fun.



This year's presenters:



STEVE BALZA *DMLC* '93 *Fishers of Men* campaign



LOIS BODE DMLC '67 DMLC's Last Decade



PRESIDENT MARK
ZARLING WLS '80
"State of the College" report

DR. JOHN ISCH will also be on hand to sign copies of his book, *one Lord, one faith, one baptism.* The event will conclude in plenty of time to make your way to the auditorium and claim your seat for the 7:30 concert.

Come back Saturday for the Commencement Service at 10:00 am and the Call Service at 2:00 pm.

Both will occur in the gymnasium, and all are welcome. Seating may be limited, so please arrive early.

Alumni Commencement Dinner

Friday, May 15, 2020 Cafeteria Conference Center

Registration and social hour kicks off at 4:00 pm. Dinner and presentations to follow. Your RSVP is free and saves your seat for the fellowship and presentations. Pay just \$5 upon arrival (cash or check to MLC) to enjoy a delicious cafeteria meal.

Visit with old friends, meet other alumni, and hear presentations on MLC programs and progress.

Capacity is limited and RSVP is required.

RSVP online at **bit.ly/2020MLCDinner** or contact **Steve Balza** in the Alumni Office (**507.217.1731** or **alumni@mlc-wels.edu**) to reserve your spot.





Alumnu Focus On-

Fishers of Men Statue and Scholarship Status

The Fishers of Men campaign concludes on June 30. Thanks to hundreds of generous individuals and groups who have contributed to the project,

\$85,660 of the \$100,000 goal has been received.

This project is one way we're giving thanks to God for 25 years of blessings on our dear alma mater. The project has two goals:

Statue: Erect a symbolically significant statue of Jesus inviting us to come, follow him, and fish for souls. It will stand at the confluence of the mall and chapel courtyard.

Scholarship: Fund an endowed alumni scholarship. The initial fund balance should be around \$35K and the intent is to award two \$1000 scholarships to worthy seniors this fall.

Professor Emeritus Roger Klockziem is currently serving as the project manager and will oversee the many tasks to be completed in preparation for

Those wishing to help bring the campaign to completion can do so online at **bit.ly/MLCAlumni** or by sending a check to MLCAA, 1995 Luther Ct, New Ulm MN 56073.

the August 21, 2020, dedication.





OWLS Convention at MLC

October 14-16, 2020

"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord." (Psalm 78:4)

The OWLS will spend two days on the campus of Martin Luther College, observe student life, and hear professors share the many ways students are being equipped to "tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord" in classrooms and churches.

- Worship in Chapel of the Christ
- Speakers: MLC Professors Keith Wessel, Paul Koelpin, and James Pope

- Five workshops in Wittenberg Collegiate Center
- Lunches at MLC cafeteria
- Ministry display tables
- Tours of MLC and New Ulm

Convention registration includes two lunches, two dinners, and the program.

- \$140 Early Bird (postmarked by July 15, 2020)
- \$150 Normal (postmarked July 16 September 15, 2020)
- \$175 Late (postmarked September 16 or later)

Accommodations at Best Western Plus-New Ulm. Call 507.359.2941.

For more information, go to **bit.ly/OWLS2020** or contact **Werner Lemke** *DMLC* '63 at **wandjlemke@msn.com**.



Joseph Beatrice DMLC 1975 Scottsdale AZ



Karen Stob DMLC 1985 St. Paul MN



Karl Bauer DMLC 1955 Smith's Mill



Katherine Kogler MLC 2010 Fallbrook CA



Let's Get Together!

Is your class, cast, or team celebrating a milestone year in 2021? Looking to get together on the MLC campus to celebrate? Contact the Alumni Office for assistance in getting your event on the calendar and off the ground!

Current groups getting together in 2020:

Class/Group	Dates	Location	Contact Person	Phone	Email
1980 DMLC	July 15-16, 2020	MLC	Bill Pekrul	507-217-7999	pekrulwa@mlc-wels.edu
1980 MLPS	July 24-26, 2020	MLC	Gary Jeffers	623-910-8936	gjeffers@grace-in-action.com
1970 DMLC	Sept 13-15, 2020	MLC	Dave Wendler	507-217-9765	dowendler@outlook.com
1975 DMLC	Sept 18-20, 2020	MLC	Pat Stern	928-213-1475	flagsterns@gmail.com



Kevin Schnake MLC 2005 Findlay OH



Lauren Maertz MLC 2015 Watertown SD



Schneider DMLC 1995 Savanna IL



Lorene Greenwood DMLC 1965 Baraboo WI

Alumnu Focus On

Erna Zahn Celebrates 111 Years of Grace

At 111, Mrs. Erna (Miller) Zahn, wife of former professor Meilahn Zahn, is being fêted as Minnesota's oldest resident.

Erna was born in 1908 in Pickett, Wisconsin, sharing a birthday year with Bette Davis, President Lyndon B. Johnson, and Henry Ford's Model T. Just a few years earlier, San Francisco had suffered the Great Earthquake and the Wright Brothers had launched their



Erna Miller, c.1926

first flight. It wouldn't be until Erna was 20 that she and the rest of the world would spread their butter on commercially sliced bread.

Meanwhile, in the New Ulm of 1908, Dr. Martin Luther College

consisted of only one building, Old Main. It wasn't until 1911, when little Erna was 3, that 5,000 people came to the DMLC campus to celebrate the dedication of Summit Hall and the Music Hall, where Erna's husband would spend much of his time decades later.

Erna graduated from secretarial college and worked a few years before marrying Meilahn in 1935. The family



Meilahn Zahn, 1962

Martin Luther College Wind Symphony Tour

Sun May 17	8:00 am	St. Paul-North Mankato MN	Worship	
	7:00 pm	Luther High School	Concert	
Mon May 18	9:15 am	Luther High School	Demo Concert	
	7:00 pm	St. John-Baraboo WI	Concert	
Tue May 19	1:45 pm	Luther Prep School	Mini Concert	
	7:00 pm	Zion-Columbus WI	Concert	
Wed May 20	7:00 pm	Wisconsin LHS	Concert	
Fri May 22	10:00 am	St. Paul-North Fond du Lac WI	Demo Concert	





Louise Malchow DMLC 1980 Mobridge SD



Marilyn Baer DMLC 1975 Milwaukie, OR



Mark Renner DMLC 1990 Madison NE



Megan Bauer MLC 2000 Belle Plaine

moved to New Ulm in 1962 when Meilahn accepted a call to DMLC. He served as music professor and department chair until 1975.

The couple had six children. Today, the family tree boasts 22

grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Many in the family have served as called and lay workers in different capacities. Fifteen prepared for ministry on this campus: Erna's children Ronald Zahn DMLC '62, Marley Kuckhahn DMLC '63, and Christine Heckmann DMLC '70; her grandchildren Teri Wildauer DMLC '85, Phil Zahn DMLC '87, Bethel Boeder DMLC '90, Laura Biesterfeld DMLC '92, Susan Jaeger



Erna (Miller) Zahn, 2011

'98, Paul Kuckhahn '00, and Joel Zahn '05; and her great-grandchildren John Wildauer '15, Leah Wendland '16, Carl Boeder '18, and Claire Boeder '19. Another great-grand, Sam Boeder '21, is a current student.

Granddaughter Bethel Boeder, an adjunct piano instructor at MLC, notes the significant role parents and grandparents play in shaping their children's attitudes toward ministry. And as she looks back, she says, "I can't help but think that Grandpa and Grandma would have enjoyed watching years of band and choir concerts and musicals with the grands and great-grands."

Mrs. Zahn turns 112 on April 14, 2020. We hope she has a wonderful party!



Equipping Alumni to Be Ambassadors!

Peter Schaewe *DMLC* '87 is dedicating many hours to preparing new materials for you in your role as ambassadors for Martin Luther College.

Watch for his new booklets for K-2 called "Could I Be a Pastor?" and "Could I Be a Teacher?"

They'll be ready for MLC Day 2020!





Michael Enderle NWC 1980 Kenosha WI



Mike Bater NWC 1975 Tecumseh MI

Call for Thalassa Submissions

Martin Luther College has now begun accepting submissions for the **14th annual Thalassa Prize**. This \$1,000 prize is awarded to the best photo-and-essay submission from an MLC student or graduate who has served in an international ministry.

PAST WINNERS: mlc-wels.edu/thalassa

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: mlc-wels.edu/thalassa

DEADLINE: April 30, 2020

2019 WINNER: ETHAN SCHULTZ

"The Flock Under His Care" – Southeast Asia

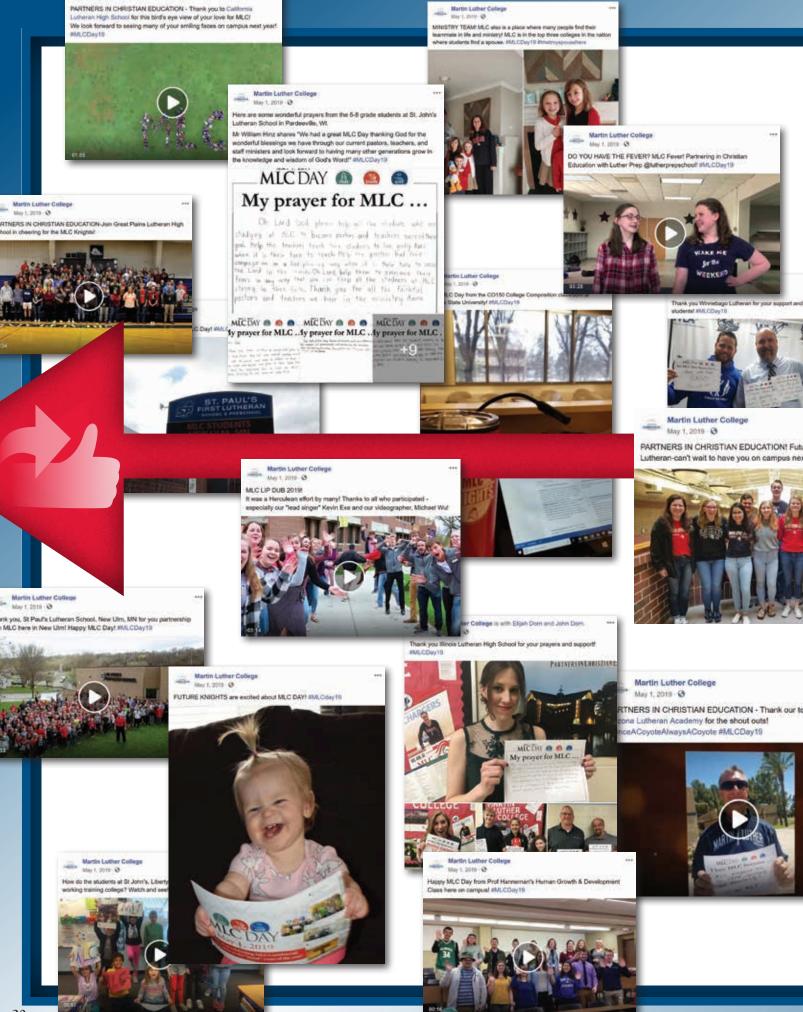




Nathanael Plocher MLC 2015 Vassar MI



Norma Kionka DMLC 1970 Menominee MI



1019-43



Promote and celebrate ministerial education by hosting an MLC Day in your congregation!

PRAY for our mission and ministry

SHARE our story

GIVE to support ministerial training

Help us celebrate at MLC too! Anytime between now and May 6:

PHOTOGRAPH your school, class, or faculty creating an MLC greeting.

VIDEOTAPE an MLC shout-out, song, or skit.

WRITE a prayer for our students and staff.

SHARE all of these with us by email or Facebook!

GATHER an offering for your College of Ministry. Your gifts on MLC Day will help fund the Congregational Partner Grant Matching Fund, directly supporting MLC students!

FIND more ideas at mlcday.com!

On MLC Day, May 6, we'll have a grand unveiling of all the schools' and congregations' prayers, posts, shout-outs, and songs!

NEW! This year we'll be providing some cool classroom activities that will point your students to MLC and, more important, to the command Jesus has given all of us to share the good news of his love!





















Meet the Presidents

Dr. Martin Luther College President Theodore Olsen (1995-2007)

Theodore Olsen served as president of the newly amalgamated Martin Luther College from 1995 until 2007. These were testing years in which a common faith and hope would be challenged by the daily tensions

and passions of two very different academic cultures united on one campus. The students, faculties, and staffs of Northwestern College and Dr. Martin Luther College, now united as Martin Luther College, occasionally needed redirection and creative adjudication to ease the strains as they learned to live together.

To bear capably both the onus and the honor of this leadership, the pastor called by the Governing Board was a man with an independent personality rooted in Christian faith, a man trained by broad experience, a man bearing a manifest love for the synod's program of ministerial training.

Ted Olsen (1940-2015) graduated from Northwestern College in 1962 and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1966. He began serving in the parish ministry at St. Mark in Brown Deer, Wisconsin. In 1971, the Lord called Ted to serve as professor of religion and social studies at Dr. Martin Luther College, where he served until 1978. The next four years he served as parish pastor at Zion in Gainesville, Florida. Ted began anew his service in ministerial training as president of Martin Luther Preparatory School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and then was called to the presidency of Martin Luther College in 1994.

Ted's tenure at MLC not only fostered the college's unity, as a student body and faculty began to live together effectively, but also promoted within the synod at large satisfaction and acceptance of a single ministerial training college.

During his tenure the faculty responded to the synod's requests for careful examination of its curricula, to assure both itself and the entire synod that it was teaching what was most needed to prepare young men and women for faithful, sensitive ministry of God's Word. Meaningful curriculum changes resulted, both in required and optional studies within each college program. Beyond curriculum change, practical ministry activities were made available, and many more students participated in them.

Ted served MLC until his retirement in 2007 when he and his dear wife, Joanne, retired to Trego, Wisconsin, where she continues to live since Ted's death in 2015. Even now Ted's and his family's love for ministerial training continue to serve both college and synod through a student scholarship established in his name.

Written by Professor Emeritus Darvin Raddatz WLS '59



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



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



2007-2020 Mark Zarling



FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Dr. Richard Bakken (adjunct, graduate studies) chaired the 5th Annual Next Generation Learning Spaces conference in Singapore in August 2019. He also presented "Making the Case for Space: Achievements in Learning Space Technology Revitalization at Princeton University."

Natalie Borgwardt DMLC '90 (Early Childhood Learning Center lead teacher) earned her MA in early childhood education from Concordia-St. Paul.

Dr. James Carlovsky '02 (math, instructional technology) presented "Student Presentation Tools for iPads and Chromebooks" at the Western Wisconsin District Teachers' Conference at St. Paul-Onalaska WI in February.



Professor Rebecca Cox DMLC '89 (director of assessment, PE) presented "Assessment: A Necessary Component of Physical Education" and "An Original Dance Lesson for Middle Schoolers" (along with MLC student Rebecca Doering) at the Western Wisconsin District Teachers' Conference at St. Paul-Onalaska WI in February.

Professor Rachel Feld '06 (director of academic computing and online learning) cohosts the WELSTech Podcast every other month during the school year. In February she presented "Technology Health and Wellness for Kids" to the parent/ teacher group at St. Mark-Eau Claire WI. She also presented a keynote, "What Happens If All the Crayons Quit?", and a sectional, "Using Photos to Show What You Know," at the Western Wisconsin District Teachers' Conference at St. Paul-Onalaska WI in February. Finally, she served as a member of the visiting teams for three WELSSA site visits in Aurora CO, Sioux Falls SD, and Watertown SD.

Michelle Gartner DMLC '93 (event coordinator) served as conference coordinator for the WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership January 21-23 in Chicago.

Laurie Gauger-Hested DMLC '87 (writer/editor) wrote the text for the choral anthem "This Broken Bread—Not Bread Alone" published by Northwestern Publishing House. She also presented "Dare to Trust God with Your Life," a two-session keynote, at the 2020 Christian Woman Today Retreat in Brookfield WI in March.



Professor Daniel Gawrisch '08 (physical education) presented the keynote "The Need for PE and Movement Throughout the Day" and the sectional "Teaching PE Strategies" at the Western Wisconsin District Teachers' Conference at St. Paul-Onalaska WI in February. He also published an article, with co-authors K.

A. R. Richards and C. M. Killian, for the peer-reviewed journal *Quest* titled "Integrating Technology in Physical Education Teacher Education: A Socialization Perspective."

Professor Kelli Green DMLC '92 (special ed) facilitated the WELS/ELS Special Education Task Force Leadership Retreat in Waukesha WI in November. She also presented "Private Schools in Minnesota and Exceptional Learners" at the Twin Cities WELS Principals' Conference at West LHS in November.

Paul Grubbs '01 (English) presented "Inviting Teenagers to Engage with the *Gospel Outreach with Media* Conference" as part of Bethany Lutheran College's Christ in Media Institute online conference in November.

Dr. Timothy Grundmeier '07 (history) was one of the archivists and historians invited to participate in a pan-Lutheran roundtable discussion titled "The Lutheran Reformation in North America: A 400-Year Heritage" at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis in November. In January, Grundmeier presented "Lutheran Disunion: The Civil War, Reconstruction, and the General Synod Schism, 1861-1867" at the American Society of Church History in New York City.

Professor Grace Hennig DMLC '89 (music) composed the music for the choral anthem "There Is a Green Hill Far Away" published by Northwestern Publishing House.



Professor Emeritus Dr. John Isch DMLC '58 published one Lord, one faith, one baptism: The history of Dr. Martin Luther College from 1984 to 1995 (Martin Luther College). He also self-published You Had to Have Been There and Lived It, a 571-page history of the US-Dakota War containing prints of 100 paintings. Dr. Isch donated

the book to the Minnesota Historical Society, three county historical societies (Olmsted, Kandiyohi, and Brown), and the MLC library.



Peter
Nolte
MLC 2010
Longmont CO



Peter Unnasch NWC 1985 Nodine MN



Philip Geiger NWC 1965 Watertown Wl



Rebekah Rimpel MLC 2005 Crete IL



FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Professors Cheryl Loomis DMLC '77 (education) and **Jon Roux** DMLC '94 (education) presented the sectional "Using Children's Literature to Teach Science" at the Southwest Minnesota WELS Science Curriculum Conference at MLC in January.

Professor Paul Koelpin WLS '90 (theology, history) gave a presentation on the relevance of Lutheran theology called "Take Every Thought Captive" to a combined pastors' conference of the Winnebago, Kettle Moraine, Shoreland, and Western Lakes conferences at Elkhart Lake WI in October.

Dr. Jeff Lemke (adjunct, graduate studies) presented "Best Marketing Mediums for Outreach" and "Reach New Families with a Sustainable School" at the 2019 WELS Leadership Conference. He also presented "Are You Paying Your Digital Postage?" as part of Bethany Lutheran College's Christ in Media Institute online conference in November.

Dr. Kari Muente '99 (social sciences) was a co-presenter of "Negotiating the Teacher Work Sample: Thank You for Teaching Me the Ways I Need to Learn" for the College and University Faculty Assembly at the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) National Convention in Austin TX in November. At the same conference, she also participated in a roundtable session on "Breaking Barriers: Building Informed Action Curriculum for All Students." She presented "Special Education Interventions: Establishing a Multi-Tier System of Supports in Our Classrooms" and "My Crayon Isn't Working: Meeting the Needs of a Diverse Group of Learners in Our WELS Classrooms" at the Western Wisconsin District Teachers' Conference at St. Paul-Onalaska WI in February. Finally, she presented "Building Civil Discourse and Informed Action Curriculum for All Students Using the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Framework" at the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference in Mankato in March.

Professor Thomas Nass WLS '82 (Hebrew) gave a presentation on the doctrine of ministry at an informal leadership meeting of the WELS, ELS, and LCMS in Jacksonville FL in December.

Professor Emeritus Dr. John Nolte DMLC '68 was invited to present an organ recital and to play for an organ rededication service at St. John-Darfur MN in November.

Dr. Mark Paustian WLS '88 (English, Hebrew) presented a Bible study on the book of Ruth at a WELS East Asia missions retreat in Thailand January 30-February 5.

Instructor Michael Plocher DMLC '93, MS Ed '16 (adjunct, technology) presented "Three Stages of STEM" at the Southwest Minnesota WELS Science Curriculum Conference at MLC in January, and "Formative Assessments Using Technology" at the Western Wisconsin District Teachers' Conference at St. Paul-Onalaska WI in February.

Professor Jon Roux DMLC '94 (education) presented the keynote address "Teaching Reading with Purpose" and the sectional "Close Reading Strategies for Elementary and Middle School" at the Lake Lutheran Teachers' Conference at Jerusalem-Morton Grove IL in February. He was also invited to act as a "booktalker," presenting new and favorite children's books to the 200+ in attendance at the Books for Breakfast 2020 in Maple Grove MN.

Beth Scharf '00 (administrative assistant) presented "Beyond the 12 Days of Christmas," at an Advent by Candlelight service at St. John-Sleepy Eye MN in December.

Professor David Scharf WLS '05 (theology) presented "The Doctrine and Practice of Stewardship" at a pastors' conference for the Colonial North Conference of the North Atlantic District at Messiah-South Windsor CT in October. He presented "20/20 Vision for Your Future" at the Men of His Word Conference in Oshkosh WI in February. He serves as a pulpit assistant, preaching and leading Bible study monthly, at Christ the Lord-Cottage Grove MN, and he is the new "Question and Answer" contributing editor for Forward in Christ magazine.



Professor Nicolas Schmoller WLS '10 (theology, foreign language) preached on the theme "Two Kinds of Righteousness" for the joint Reformation service held at MLC in October. In February he published an article in the "Please Explain" series in Forward in Christ.

Professor Jon Schaefer '02 (director of New Teacher Induction) led a series of WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools webinars in February and March to help WELS principals and directors implement the WELS Ministerial Growth and Evaluation Process with their faculties.



Renee Kloehn DMLC 1990 Stoddard WI



Scott Oelhafen NWC 1990 Flint MI



Sharon Alaxson DMLC 1970 Waterford WI



William Monday MLC 2000 Cincinnati OH

Professor Mark Stein DMLC '92 (admissions director) saw the publication of his article "Program Building" in the fall 2019 issue of *Point After II*, the official publication of the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association.

Prof. Steven Thiesfeldt DMLC '74 (science, director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness) presented the sectional workshop "Using Desktop Investigations in Science: A Three-Dimensional Approach" at the Southwest Minnesota WELS Science Curriculum Conference at MLC in January.



Dr. Cindy Whaley DMLC '76 (education) gave a two-day presentation on balanced reading at St. Mark-Citrus Heights CA in October.

Dr. Jeff Wiechman DMLC '92 (vice president for academics) presented "Summative Teacher Evaluation," Module IV of the WELS Ministry Growth and Evaluation Process for teachers and principals, at Resurrection-Rochester MN in February.



1970-2020: Fifty Years of Ministry on the Hill

Professor Joyce Schubkegel is marking 50 years of ministry on our campus this year.

She began serving at Dr. Martin Luther College in 1970, teaching keyboard and music courses, as well as conducting the Treble

Choir, aka "Joyce's Voices," from 1977 to 2005. She transitioned to a full-time adjunct music faculty position in 2009.

In addition to her teaching and conducting, Professor Schubkegel also composed much of the music the Treble Choir sang and added creative choreography that delighted May Night audiences for years. Her compositions have received various awards and have been published by Concordia Publishing House, MorningStar, and Northwestern Publishing House.

Professor Schubkegel's ministry began in 1958, 12 years before she came to DMLC. With a BS degree in elementary education from Concordia University Chicago and an MMus degree in organ performance from Northwestern University, she served as an elementary teacher, organist, choral conductor, and music director at LCMS congregations in Indiana and Illinois and as a music professor at Concordia University Chicago and Milwaukee Lutheran Teachers College.

Professor Schubkegel's ministry has spanned 62 years so far, which is longer than that of DMLC's first professor, Godfrey Burk, who served from 1884 to 1943.

MLC Vice President Jeff Wiechman was the professor's student in his college days.

"Having Professor Schubkegel as my first-year classroom piano teacher is a wonderful college memory," he says. "Now, serving in ministry with her at MLC and seeing the same passion she has for her craft is a blessing. I pray for God's continued blessing on her effective work among us."

President Zarling adds his gratitude on behalf of the college and the synod: "For a half a century, Professor Joyce Schubkegel has been faithfully serving her Savior at (D)MLC, a living sermon of Christ's empowering love and willing service. Her love of Jesus and of music has had a profound impact on literally thousands of gospel servants. Truly, the apostle's words to the Corinthians ring true in her ministry: "You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God."





NEW BOOK!

Order online now:

mlc-wels.edu/go/newbook

one Lord, one faith, one baptism

In one Lord, one faith, one baptism, Professor Emeritus John R. Isch, PhD, relates the fascinating history of the 11 "lost" years, 1984-1995, leading up to the amalgamation of Dr. Martin Luther College and Northwestern College. Dr. Isch has produced this engaging and historically significant account with a tone that is wry but gentle, unblinking but kind.



Year-by-year account of DMLC life:

highlights in the arts and athletics, faculty changes, financial and enrollment statistics, feel-good shout-outs . . .

Additions and expansions: secondary ed, early childhood ed, staff ministry, Spanish, Early Field Experience . . .

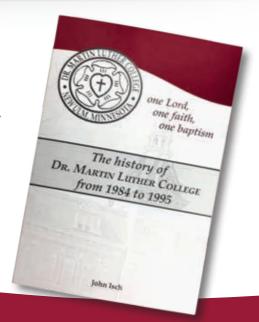
Difficult issues: accreditation, state licensure, financial setbacks, reductions in faculty, role of women, unassigned graduates . . .

The road to amalgamation:

Prep School Study, Feasibility Study Committee, faculty feedback, student questions, new paradigms, strong emotions...

Making amalgamation possible: new name, Student Congress, faculty events, curriculum meetings, construction, housing solutions . . .

New college, new routines: curriculum, daily chapel, athletic teams, dress code, the Sprinter . . .



The history of

Dr. Martin Luther College from 1984 to 1995



\$9.95 + shipping (and sales tax, if applicable)

Order your copy now at mlc-wels.edu/go/newbook or by calling the MLC Bookstore at 507.233.9138.

A digital pdf version of the entire book will also be available to read free of charge at mlc-wels.edu/history/written-histories.