

# IN FOCUS

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

YEAR IN REVIEW 2019-2020



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College Responds to COVID-19

Call Day Assignments

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# Never Will I Leave You

Excerpted from the May 2020 Commencement Sermon

By President Mark Zarling WLS '80

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, and especially you, the May 2020 MLC graduates,

We miss you, graduates. At this college, commencement is a remarkable celebration. Certainly, we celebrate your accomplishments in academics, athletics, arts, and altruism. But God's people also celebrate *you* as gifts of a loving Lord. You are sent forth to serve the Savior by serving souls. There is so much to celebrate today. We just need to do it in a different way.

Remember back when you were watching the Chiefs win the Super Bowl? That was just a few months ago. Who could have predicted the changes COVID-19 would foist upon our lives? Like a line of dominoes falling, the plague progressively devastated schedules, disrupted the economy, and destroyed routines while bringing suffering and death to so many.

Most of you know that I was sick with the virus this spring. During my illness I thought about all the fear and frustration, the confusion and anger. Everything seems out of control. And through it all, Satan delights to hiss his lies into our ears. *Where is God? Why would he allow such widespread sickness and death? Where's your Jesus now?*

Our Old Adam agitates the soul with questions as well. *Why, Lord? Why has this happened? When, Lord? When will you fix things so we get back to normal? How, Lord? How can I manage this disruption in my finances and in my life? Where are you, Lord? Where's my Jesus?*

Jesus is right where he said he would be. With you. Around you. In you. *Where's my Jesus?* He's there in the quiet of the morning when you sit with your Bible and read his promises to begin the day. *Where's my Jesus?* He's wrapped around you, clothing you with his love and power, for ***all of you who are baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.*** *Where's my Jesus?* He's offering himself to you in the Holy Supper, filling you with his love and strength.

Jesus fills everything in every way. There is no place you go where he is not. He says, ***Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*** So in our lives and in our ministries, ***we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*** (Hebrews 13:5-6)



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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.



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On our cover:  
President Mark Zarling,  
who has faithfully  
served our college  
from 2007 to 2020,  
has retired.



2007  
2020

THANKING GOD FOR GIVING US

President **MARK ZARLING**



Rev. Mark Zarling served Martin Luther College as president from 2007 to 2020. He retired this summer.

Prior to his ministry at MLC, Mark served as a pastor at St. Matthew-Danube MN (1980-1984) and Bethany-Fort Atkinson WI (1984-1996), and as a professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (1996-2007).

He and his wife, Colette (pictured), moved to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, this summer and are planning road trips to the East and West Coasts to see their children and grandchildren.



To MLC students past, present, and future, President Emeritus Zarling offers this encouragement:

“ The apostle tells us to *fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith*. Live daily with eyes on Jesus—and the only way to keep eyes on him is to stay with the Scriptures that reveal him. Make time daily to prayerfully read the Spirit’s inspired words that you may build up your faith. As Jude 20-21 tells us, *But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.* ”

“ Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Always focused on gospel ministry—stateside and abroad—your leadership instilled confidence and provided inspiration. We thank Jesus for sharing you. **MLC International Services Office** ■ We were bountifully blessed by this man of God. I appreciated his servant mindset, his eyes of faith, his words of wisdom, his humble heart, and his beautiful feet. **Steve Balza** ■ Thank you for communicating Christ clearly to us, whether in a chapel “Letter from Home” or in a casual conversation. May Jesus keep you! **Bethel Boeder** ■ “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less” . . . and thinking most about God. Thank you for your humble service to your Savior. **John Boeder** ■ It was amazing to pray with him receiving calls. A man of faith who convinced my dad to ask my mom out and ultimately led to my existence! **James Carlovsky** ■ President Zarling, thank you for your humble leadership, which always pointed us to Jesus and expressed unwavering confidence in his grace and power. **James Danell** ■ Thanks, President Zarling, for being a pastor-administrator. I’ve appreciated how you have fed and led us as a pastor: great Bible studies, chapel worship, and a smile for souls. **Brian Dose** ■ Thank you for your strong, quiet leadership with a servant’s heart. . . . (continued on next page)



2007  
2020

THANKING GOD FOR GIVING US

President **MARK ZARLING**



## Tribute from MLC Governing Board Chair

By Rev. Michael Woldt WLS '80

*WYSIWYG! That's what comes to mind when I think of Mark Zarling. What you see is what you get! Mark is gifted, hardworking, dedicated to serving Jesus, passionate about the Great Commission, and a man who cherishes his family. Whether he's preaching a sermon, teaching a lesson, leading a meeting, socializing with friends, or helping freshmen move boxes into the dorm, there is nothing pretentious about Mark. WYSIWYG!*

I've known Mark Zarling for 50 years. We met in 1970 when I joined the Michigan Lutheran Seminary class of '72 as a junior. I recall Mark excelling in every aspect of school life. Academically, he was at the top of our class. He sang in the choir and was a member of its show group. (We rocked the silky shirts and bell-bottom pants as we sang Karen and Richard Carpenter's greatest hits. It was the '70s after all!) He played drums in the band and organ for chapel. He was a linebacker on the football team and a grappler on the wrestling mat. Mark did it all, and he did it exceptionally well. He might be embarrassed to read this, but I can't think of anyone in our class who worked harder than Mark.

Mark brought that work ethic into his ministry at Martin Luther College. I'm not sure people grasp how much time, energy, and passion Mark poured into his role as president of MLC. As chair of the governing board and as a friend, I would encourage Mark, "Take more time for yourself." He would try for a while. Then he would be right back preaching, teaching, making conference presentations, traveling to promote the mission of Martin Luther College, and carving out time for personal meetings with students, faculty, and staff. Mark wasn't driven by his job description or governing board expectations. He was compelled by love for Jesus and the people he served.

With a half century of personal history reaching back to our teenage years, there are stories I won't tell. (We once shared the back seat of a state trooper's patrol car. No fines were imposed, no arrests made.) Some stories I can't recall. (God is good!) However, I will always remember with thanks to the Lord that I have the privilege of calling Mark Zarling a classmate, a brother in the ministry, and a friend. I pray that the Lord blesses both Mark and his wife, Colette, in retirement!

## Northwestern College 1976 Graduates

### MARK ZARLING

Benton Harbor, Mich.



Football: 3,4; Intramurals: 1,2,3,4; N Club: 3,4; Dorm Council: 1,2,3 Officer 1,3; Bethesda Big Brother: 1; COS: 3,4; Band: 1,2,3,4; Chorus: 1,2,3,4; Touring Chorus: 1,2,3,4; Pep Band: 1,2; Chapel Organist: 2,3,4; Scola Cantorum: 1; Tommy, Zip; Favorite Bible Verse: Ps. 46:1; SEM

### MICHAEL A. WOLDT

Milwaukee, Wis.



Intramurals: 1,2,3,4; Bowling: 1, 2,3; Forum: 4; B&R: 4; Bethesda Big Brother: 1; RA 4; UMOG: 3; Chorus: 1,2,3,4; Touring Chorus: 1,3; Scola Cantorum: 1; Mikey; Wie Geht's, baby! Having to graduate and leave NWC; Favorite Bible Verse: Romans 8:28; SEM

“

I appreciate your sincerity and desire to personally know everyone. We'll miss your morning greetings and "Letters from Home." **Lisa Fenske** ■ The calm confidence of your personal faith and your ceaseless spiritual encouragement made a tremendous positive impact on my life and ministry. Thanks for your humble, engaged leadership. **Paul Grubbs** ■ Your "Letters from Home" were a highlight for me over the years and indicative of the way that you faithfully and humbly led our college as a man of God. **Greg Holzhueter** ■ God's blessings in retirement, Prez! Your Christian example, positive outlook, concern for others, and tireless dedication to the ministry will be missed. Well done, good and faithful servant. **Carla Hulke** ■ God has blessed MLC with your guidance. You have become the face of MLC while representing Jesus through your work. God bless you as you serve him in retirement. **Robert Klindworth** ■ Exactly the leader MLC needed—strong pastoral heart, excellent people skills, credentialed educator, evangelical communicator, capable musician, perceptive administrator, and many synodical connections. Grateful for your service! **Paul Koelpin** ■ Thanks for coming in early to make coffee. **Gwen Kral** ■ Thank you for your humble service to our gracious Lord, always demonstrating the importance of his Word.





## New ON CAMPUS

Chapel of the Christ

Early Childhood  
Learning Center

Soccer pitch and  
baseball field

## New IN ACADEMICS

**Majors:** BS-Early Childhood  
Education, BS-Special Education,  
Four-Year Secondary Ed Majors

**Minors:** Urban Ministry, Chinese

**Graduate:** MS-Educational  
Administration, MA-Theological Studies

**Continuing Ed:** New Teacher  
Induction, new certifications, increased  
professional development options

## New EMPHASES

**Lowering student debt**  
(Financial Literacy Program,  
Congregational Partner Grant Program)

**Broadening international services**  
(teach abroad, serve abroad,  
international student enrollment)

**Expanding experiential learning**  
(Daylight requirement)

**Recruiting** not merely to fill vacancies  
but to prepare a corps of Christian  
witnesses for many kinds of ministry

## God's Blessings to MLC 2007-2020

By **Professor Steve Thiesfeldt** DMLC '74

President Zarling was a strong spiritual leader who fulfilled his love for teaching on and off the campus by leading Bible classes. He was often among the first to arrive on campus in the morning, promptly and fastidiously checking his email to correspond with faculty, staff, students, and constituents. The campus family eagerly awaited his messages from God's Word during Wednesday morning chapel and at graduation. He led firmly but gently, collaborating and communicating, at times delegating and at other times rolling up his sleeves. He also traveled extensively, serving as a warm and sincere MLC ambassador all over the synod.

Assisted by the Governing Board and the Administrative Council, his keen sense of vision was apparent as he launched two capital campaigns and led the campus through two strategic plans (Compelled to Speak 2011-2017 and Equipped to Do God's Will 2017-2023), two accreditations, a Master Site Plan, and a Master Staffing Plan.

During Mark's tenure, the mission of Martin Luther College has thrived. This list identifies some of the noteworthy developments under God's blessing.

God's blessings on your new journey—until we meet in eternity! **JoElyn Krohn** ■ President Zarling, you have been a faithful example here on the MLC campus. Your Wednesday "Letters from Home" chapel services were looked forward to by many. Blessings to you both. **Judy Martens** ■ President Zarling is MLC's spiritual compass, and it's an honor to serve under his leadership. Thank you for keeping the college focused on Jesus and the college's mission, President Zarling. **John Meyer** ■ You were my Circuit Pastor in the 1980s and 90s. Later, first as a seminary professor and then as a college president, you always kept the heart of a pastor. **Lawrence Olson** ■ Thank you for your Christ-focused, humble leadership; a true example of the servant-leader. Congratulations on your retirement and God's blessings to you and Colette. **Deborah Plath** ■ Mark, God go with you and Colette as you transition to a new stage in life. New adventures await. The same Lord promises to guide and bless. **Jim Pope** ■ It has been a pleasure working under your leadership. God's richest blessing to you in your retirement. **Jim Rathje** ■ The campus family's humble leader who knows every single worker's name. A Christian who will stop what he is doing and pray with you. Thanks for your servant-like heart. **Wendy Ristow** ■ You are a man after God's own heart. . . . (continued on next page)



2007  
2020

THANKING GOD FOR GIVING US

# President **MARK ZARLING**



We have so many reasons to give thanks to our gracious God. Today we thank him for the dedicated and loving leadership of President Zarling.

From parish pastor to seminary professor to president of Martin Luther College, his compassionate and caring heart has always been evident. President Zarling has been a humble and faithful shepherd at MLC, guiding and leading it through years that have seen tremendous changes in forms and opportunities in gospel ministry. His consistent and Christ-centered service has been a blessing to thousands of students, who in turn have been great blessings to so many churches, schools, and mission fields around the world. Thank you, President Zarling! Thank you, Lord Jesus!

**Rev. Duane Rodewald** WLS '89  
Chair, Board for Ministerial Education



When I heard about President Zarling's plans to retire, I offered a simple prayer of thanksgiving: "Thank you, Jesus, for giving us Mark. Thank you, Jesus, for working in him and through him for the blessing of so many."

President Zarling has been an excellent model for all of us. His love for Jesus is readily apparent; it oozes from his pores. His desire to share Jesus' love with others compelled him to labor tirelessly for the gospel. Because he viewed his service as a public minister of the gospel as a special grace from God, completely undeserved, he went out of his way to use his position for the benefit of others, not himself. And so I pray, "Jesus, give us more optimistic, talented, and faithful servants like Mark."

**Rev. Earle Treptow** WLS '93  
President, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Christian gentlemen used to be quite common among us. They are much more rare now. From the first moment you meet President Zarling, you know you've found one. Even more, Brother Mark is a man whose rich gifts of wisdom and compassion come along once or twice in any generation. Self-effacing and humble, his life is all about Jesus, and because that is so, his life is all about serving you. You know it the instant you engage him in conversation. It's as if you were the only one in the room and nothing else on his mind really mattered. That in turn makes you want to be the best version of yourself you can possibly be. I am blessed to know him and his dear helpmeet, Colette, both as friends and as co-workers in the Lord. My life has been the better for knowing them.

**Rev. Paul Wendland** WLS '79  
Former President, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

“ Thank you for praying with me so often, pointing my eyes to the LORD of the church, to his mercy and guidance. **Dave Scharf** ■ Mark, I thank God for your service, and I thank you for your devotions, prayers, words of encouragement, and our Greek study sessions. Continued blessings. **John Schmidt** ■ It has been a tremendous blessing serving alongside you at MLC. You provided a model of Christian leadership and a servant's heart. May Jesus bless you and Colette in retirement! **Scott Schmudlach** ■ Servant Leader! Humble visionary. Down to earth. A relater. These are my descriptions or ones MLC supporters have shared with me to describe our president, Mark Zarling. What a blessing! **Kate Tohal** ■ The college has been blessed, President Zarling, by your faithful service. God has used you as his instrument to be our shepherd, our ambassador of goodwill, and our friend. Godspeed! **Steve Thiesfeldt** ■ Thank you for your Christ-like leadership at our college of ministry. May the Lord Jesus richly bless you in years to come as you look forward to his glorious return! **Joel Thomford** ■ I give thanks to Jesus, Mark, for your gospel-fueled zeal to serve your Savior and our campus family, for your gospel-seasoned communications, and for your gospel-focused ministry at MLC. **Alan Uher** ■ President Zarling always supported the Knights. He was especially adamant at



President Mark Zarling leaves an impression. He is a scholar. He is a gifted writer. He is a powerful preacher. He loves people and shows an interest in every individual. But most striking and memorable for anyone who has ever met him, worked with him, or sat in his classroom, is his heartfelt love for his Savior and his desire to share the good news of Jesus.

President Zarling has left an impression on Martin Luther College. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that our WELS College of Ministry faithfully carries out its purpose. He has personally guided and shaped hundreds if not thousands of students. And through his leadership he has instilled in our synod's members a love for and a confidence in Martin Luther College.

We pray for God's richest blessings on him and Colette as they find new ways in which to continue serving their Savior in retirement.

**Rev. Mark Schroeder** WLS '81  
President, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Mark, I thank God for your faithful service. What a blessing you've been to so many while serving Jesus at my college alma mater. You have consistently led with Christ at the center, and you have always been a gracious partner and friend. Thank you for leading with courage and yet with a simple trust in the power of the gospel. On behalf of your friends at Wisconsin Lutheran College, God's continued blessings as you transition.

**Dr. Daniel Johnson** DMLC '88  
President, Wisconsin Lutheran College

President Zarling, we at Bethany join our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the WELS and ELS in thanking Jesus for your service in leading MLC for the past 13 years. As a fellow confessional Lutheran college president, I know the many challenges faced and questions received in the president's office that must be dealt with both gracefully and well. I've admired from a distance how you have responded! Throughout the years at MLC, I've always been impressed by how you have kept the MLC students, faculty, and staff, and the entire constituency focused squarely on the One who gives us strength, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Well done, good and faithful servant! God's blessings to you and Colette in your future vocations in service to our Savior. On behalf of your brothers and sisters at Bethany Lutheran College,

**Dr. Gene Pfeifer** DMLC '81  
President, Bethany Lutheran College



home football games as he walked the sidelines following the ball and offering encouragement to the players. Thank you. **Jim Unke** ■ To kneel at the same railing during our installations together. To talk so positively about MY president when I was on the road. What a distinct honor. **Lori Unke** ■ Thank you, Mark, for always pointing us first to Jesus, in joys and trials. Your spiritual leadership is your legacy here at MLC. You and Colette will be dearly missed! **Liz Wessel** ■ Dear Mark, thank you for your humble service and leadership in Christ! I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. (1 Corinthians 1:4) **Cindy Whaley** ■ President Zarling is so mindful of gospel ministry. I want to emulate him in every way. However, I don't wish to emulate his effect on technology. It breaks around him! **Jeff Wiechman** ■ I recognized his servant attitude and humility when President Zarling and his wife taught English for a week in Hangzhou in 2012. **Tingting Zhang-Schwartz** ■ You are probably recalling David's prayer: "Who am I, Sovereign LORD, and what is my family that you have brought me this far?" Thanks for your humble and faithful service! **Anonymous** ”



# 19 COVID-19 Stories

***When Martin Luther College students went home for spring break at the end of February, little did they know it would be their last day on campus this schoolyear.***

Little did they know the spring sports seasons would be canceled. Concerts, recitals, and theater—canceled. Every spring tradition—Arbor Day, Swine Sizzler, Graduate-Faculty Banquet, even Commencement and Call Day—canceled.

COVID-19, the coronavirus disease of 2019, struck the country and the campus, and for seniors especially, the losses pressed hard.

But a virus can't vanquish us. Sustained by a gracious God, we looked the pandemic in the eye and simply pivoted. Found new ways to educate, to connect, to serve. Relying on our God's power and presence, we continued to do what we do: train a corps of Christian witnesses qualified to meet WELS ministry needs.

## 1

## Prayer and Praise During the Pandemic

***Though the pews were empty, the congregation was large.***

The junior and senior men who'd been scheduled to preach for evening chapel in Chapel of the Christ this spring did so—but from their home churches and their living rooms. Those evening chapel videos were then posted to MLC's livestreams and shared across social media—sometimes reaching more people than they would have in the campus chapel.

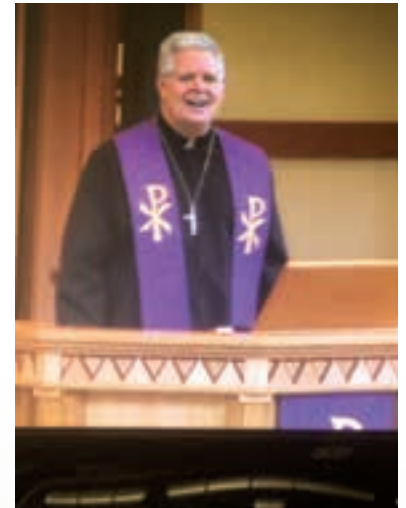
**Jordan Massiah** (Hope-Toronto ON, pictured left) found the consideration of a broader audience exciting. "Now you're preaching to an audience of all kinds," he says, "from people who are hearing the gospel for the first time to people who know God's Word well."



"The comfort I had in knowing that God's Word works, no matter the circumstances, took away the nerves. It turned into a beautiful passion, which was to make my devotion simple enough to relate to people, but also advanced enough so that people wouldn't lose interest. That's something I'll take with me into my future ministry."

**Ethan Carter** (St. Mark-Eau Claire WI) said preaching to a camera made him even more excited for the ministry. "In the middle of my sermon," he said, "I looked past the camera and into the empty pews, wishing that they were filled with my fellow students. It made me more excited to be a pastor because I know I'll be able to preach to a congregation full of people someday."

For morning chapel on campus this spring, a congregation did assemble in Chapel of the Christ. They were limited to 10—including the preacher, musicians, and videographer—but the Word was still preached, the confessions made, the prayers



lifted, the praises sung. And from their computers in New Ulm and all over the country, students, staff, faculty, and visitors worshiped along.

"Yes, it might seem bewildering to suddenly be televangelists," **Campus Pastor John Boeder** WLS '90 (pictured right) said to the other faculty members who were scheduled to preach. "But in a way, we always have been, since we've been livestreaming our chapels for years. And, thanks be to God, our devotions have been heard and seen all over. God is impacting lives with his Word, just as he promised."

We're looking forward to next fall, when we can worship together as a campus family. After all, Pastor Boeder says, "Chapel at MLC is a little glimpse of heaven on earth."

Adapted from *KnightWatch Weekly* April 24, 2020, by **Kara Peter** (St. James-Portage MI).



## 2

## How Do We Teach Swimming Online?

### *How the MLC Faculty Brought Their Entire Curriculum Online in One Week*

By Director of Academic Computing Rachel Feld '06

In my nearly 15 years of teaching, I've heard a lot of unexpected things. The first grader who told me, "Miss Feld, I can do these math problems without fingers, cubes, number lines, or my brain!" The second grader who, when reciting her memory work, said, "Come to me all you who are weary and buttered, and I will give you rest." But I definitely was not prepared for the question, "How do we teach swimming online?"

I've been serving as MLC's director of academic computing and online learning for three years. My duties include setting up online courses for the graduate program, teaching courses on technology integration, and—my favorite—helping teachers and students find creative ways to use technology in their current and future classrooms.

MLC was on Spring Break when I first started hearing about other colleges moving to online instruction. I didn't think much of it at first. **It didn't seem like something that would happen at MLC.** That all changed on March 12, the last Thursday of Spring Break, when I got a phone call from VP Wiechman, inviting me to participate in a conference call. I joined the call from a Chick-fil-A parking lot and learned that our classes were moving online for at least the next three weeks.

Once again, I was thankful for my years of experience teaching first and second grade, which taught me that **panic is not helpful**. The words my mom repeated to me frequently, "God has a plan," also echoed in my mind. And then I continued on to IKEA, my original plan for the day. While navigating the maze of Swedish furniture with my dad, who was visiting from Colorado, I started to think through the implications of moving all courses online. And God's plan was evident: my dad has many years of experience in IT and offered good advice.

Over the weekend I met with the other technology people on campus to form a game plan. We brainstormed topics and put together a schedule of workshops for professors. On Monday afternoon, March 16, the faculty gathered in the auditorium for a launch meeting of **our online learning adventure**.

**The days that followed are a blur.** Our plans for face-to-face workshops quickly turned into video conferences as the restrictions around meetings increased. Our professors had to put their courses online in a week—a process that typically takes several months. The tech team and I answered a steady stream of emails, put together help guides, researched technology tools, and offered as much support as possible.

Many professors had never taught online before. Some professors had to be very creative. (Did you know there are land swimming exercises?) The amount of time needed was a challenge, and most of our professors teach multiple courses, further increasing the time spent.

For me personally—and I think many professors would agree—**one of the biggest challenges was not seeing my students**. I became a teacher because I love telling kids about Jesus. One of my favorite parts about serving at MLC is teaching future teachers who also get to tell kids about Jesus. Teaching online was isolating. Walking empty hallways in the middle of April was eerie. The MLC chapel felt cavernous with only ten people in it. Not interacting with my MLC family on a daily basis was a huge challenge.

But of course, as my mom says, God has a plan. And **with God's plans come many blessings**. We all took a fresh look at our content and thought critically about what was most vital. We considered new delivery methods and assessments, tried new technology tools, and enhanced our online communication skills. Through it all we relied on the promise of our Savior to be with us always.

I'm excited to see the results of this unexpected adventure. Certainly, technologies we've implemented for distance learning can also support traditional learning. But we've also learned that many experiences cannot be replicated online. **What a blessing it will be to all be together on campus again.**

There are many lessons to be learned from last semester's adventure. The greatest lesson by far is that **God provides for us no matter where we are**. God provided tools for us to carry out his mission despite the challenges of last semester, and God will continue to provide for us as we serve him in the coming school year.





## 3

## How Do You Teach *That* Online?

How do you teach a lab science online? A piano lesson? Greek vocabulary? The MLC faculty pivoted to distance learning with lightning speed—and found some great ways to continue the important task of ministerial training. Here's a glimpse into a few courses.



### Chemistry:

After **Professor Steve Thiesfeldt** finished his chemistry lecture and leaned in to push 'stop' (*pictured*), he packaged up 17 crystal-growing lab kits and mailed them to each student's home. The students later uploaded lab reports demonstrating their results with data and photos.

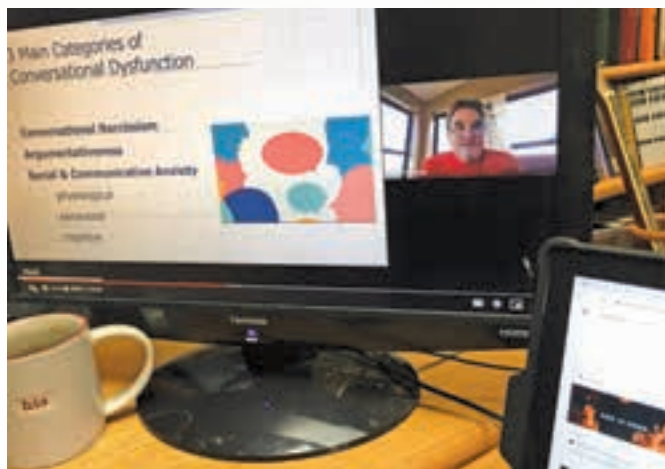
### Piano and Organ:

MLC keyboard instructors continued weekly lessons online in real time. Some students, like first-year **Abby Buege** (*Victory of the Lamb-Katy TX, pictured*), recorded their recitals and posted them online as well. Abby, whose instructor is **Dr. Bethel Balge**, played Beethoven's *Sonata Opus 10 No. 1 in F Major* and posted it on Facebook. (Look it up—it's amazing!)



### Interpersonal Communication:

**Dr. Mark Paustian** created over a dozen alternative projects for his Interpersonal Communication students to choose from this spring—projects that reflect the challenges they're facing in the pandemic. "They are tapping into their wonderful creativity," he says, "and then drawing the lines from their projects to the terms and concepts of communication theory." Options included writing a short story, collaborating on a skit, providing support to the people around them, and producing a documentary of their life right now.







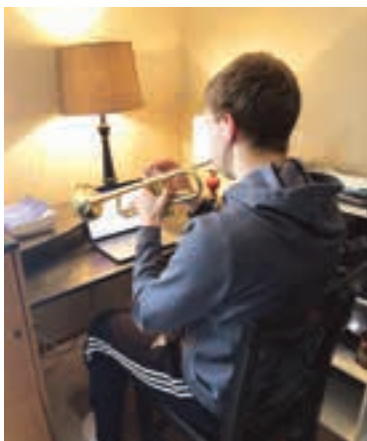
### Foreign Language:

Two biblical languages and two delivery methods. For his Greek courses, **Professor Nicolas Schmoller** (*pictured*) posted two videos a day, one to talk through the previous day's assignment and one to teach the new assignment. Students watched the videos and sent him their assignments. (He let them handwrite and photograph their translations so they didn't have to learn how to type in Greek too.) He also met with them in groups of four, once a week for an hour, to check their understanding, listen to sight translations, and answer questions.

While Schmoller's Greek class was mostly asynchronous (with students doing the work on their own time every day), **Professor Thomas Nass's** Hebrew classes met as a group synchronously—at the same time slot they met when they were on campus. This allowed him to teach in almost the same way he always has. He also met privately with each student to listen—and see—they read some Hebrew to him.

### Wind Symphony:

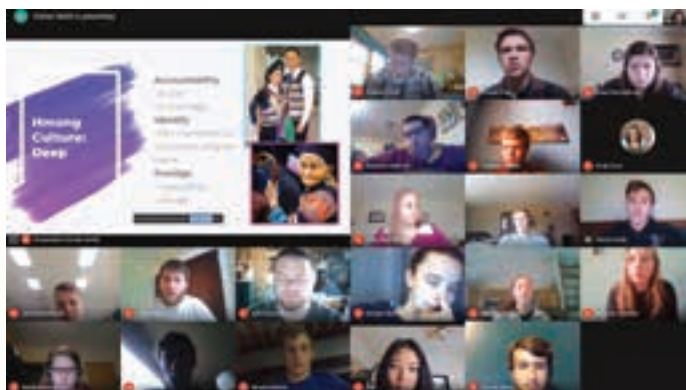
Trumpeter **Joey Behm** (*Morning Star-Jackson WI, pictured*) and the other members of the Wind Symphony “performed” two pieces this quarter, a movement of Gustav Holst's *Second Suite in F* and David Holsinger's “A Childhood Hymn.” **Professor Miles Wurster** sent students the music and tempo and a video of him conducting. They practiced and then recorded their parts, and Wurster pulled them together through a complicated editing process.



### Minority Cultures:

**Professor Tingting Zhang Schwartz** found an advantage in holding class discussions online. “Introduction to Minority Cultures deals with a variety of controversial topics related to the dominant and minority groups,” she explains. “Moodle Forum requires me to craft questions that challenge students’ critical thinking without imposing my personal stance, and allows all students to voice their in-depth opinions without feeling judged.”

She also continued a project she's done for years. Students are mentored by a pastor active in a multicultural ministry: **Daniel Rautenberg** WLS '00 (Apache), **Timothy Flunker** WLS '93 (Hispanic), **Pheng Moua** WLS '06 (Hmong), **Raymond Kimbrough** WLS '85 (urban), and **Michael Duncan** WLS '83 (Muslim). “I'm so thankful to these pastors,” Professor Zhang said, “and I'm so thankful for technology, which allows us to learn everywhere, from everybody, and beyond textbooks!”





# 19 COVID-19 Stories

4

## At Your Service



Under normal circumstances **Allison Boggs** would have been practicing piano and singing in College Choir at MLC. At home this spring, she used these gifts in a much-needed way: providing music for online worship at Divine Savior-West Palm Beach FL, where her dad is pastor.

“It’s a blessing to be a part of this small group, playing piano and singing praises to God,” says Allison. “Satan is working hard right now, using this time to lead people away from Christ. But God’s Word is much stronger as it stands firm and continues to be spread to the world.”

Adapted from *KnightWatch Weekly* April 3, 2020, by **Kara Peter** (St. James-Portage MI).

6

## Drive-In Worship

**Duke Backhaus** and **Donovan Waege** have been assisting their church, St. Paul-Tomah WI, with their weekly drive-in worship. Members come to the church parking lot, tune their radios to the chosen frequency, and listen to the pastor, the keyboard player, and a small choir gathered inside the church. The pastor’s pulpit is in the entrance, so they can see him from their cars as well.

Duke passes out bulletins (*pictured*), collects offerings, and sings in the choir. Donovan (*pictured further below*) is the technologist, working the soundboard and broadcasting the service to the parking lot, and also videotaping and posting the services on Facebook.



On Maundy Thursday, the pastors handed individually wrapped communion kits to each member so they could participate in the Lord’s Supper. They’ve continued to have regular communion this way.

“On windy and rainy days,” Duke says, “it’s a little more challenging to pass out bulletins and collect offerings—once a ten-dollar bill flew out of my collection basket and into the street!—but St. Paul’s has found ways to overcome these issues. Members continue to file in on Sunday mornings at 8 and 10:30. We average about a hundred cars each week!

“Even though this virus has negatively affected so many people,” he concludes, “God’s Word will continue to be taught. What a blessing to live at a time where a service like this is possible.”



5

## Helping the Homebound



**Jacob Borgwardt** and other MLC students at Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI have been using this stay-at-home time to assist church members who are homebound. They’ve been writing notes to them and dropping off service videos at their houses.

“Delivering service CDs to our seniors takes only a few minutes each week,” Jacob says, “but it makes all the difference in the world to them. They can maintain their church connection and keep worshipping.”



## 7

## MLC Women Are 'Sew' Ready to Serve

When MLC Librarian Linda Kramer heard the New Ulm Medical Center needed more masks, she put the call out to the MLC family.

"The response was exciting," she says. "Some people said they could sew, but they didn't have fabric. Others had fabric but not sewing skills."

That was Round 1. Round 2 began when Minnesota Governor Tim Walz recommended that everyone wear masks in public. And Round 3 commenced at the end of April when MLC Nurse Kelsey Horn asked the group to sew another 500 for MLC employees and students returning at the end of May to gather their belongings. This time the seamstresses were compensated for their time, effort, and materials.

Linda isn't sure how many MLC-made masks are out there protecting people—but she sewed 24 of them that first day, and, with her daughters now threaded into her assembly line, her total has surpassed 500. When a bent needle jammed up her machine, she switched to one of her kids' beginner

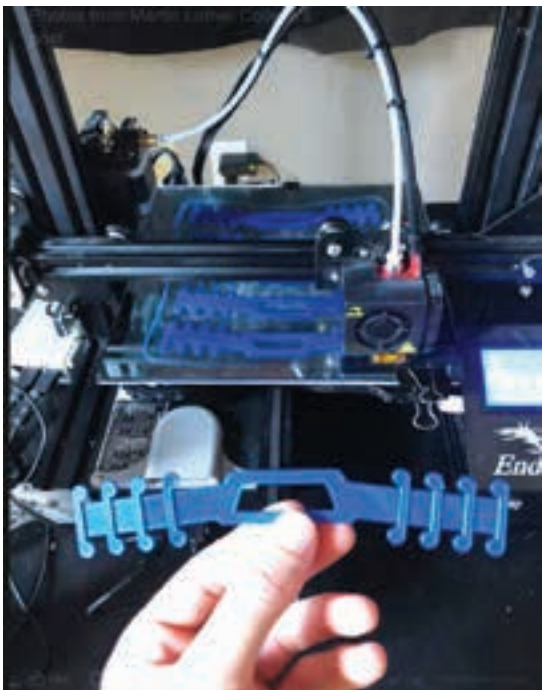


models. When she ran out of elastic, she took elastic out of old bedsheets and made ties with ribbons instead.

"The times we are living in," she says, "are so different from what we imagined even a few weeks ago. I'm blessed to be able to serve others through this small task."

## 8

## What's an Ear Saver?



While MLC ladies were sewing face masks, senior **Dillon Solomon** (*Crown of Life-Warren MI*) was here in New Ulm using his 3D printer to create ear savers (*pictured*).

He explains, "They help reduce ear irritation for nurses, doctors, and others working long shifts while wearing masks due to the coronavirus pandemic."

Dillon printed the accessories when he was done student teaching for the day—teaching he did online, since his students were two time zones away in Washington State.

He printed about 400 ear savers and sent them off as requests came in—to California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ohio.

Dillon bought the 3D printer as a kit two years ago, and he's enjoyed tinkering with it. "The finished products are just a bonus," he says.

On Call Day, Dillon was assigned to Michigan Lutheran Seminary as a tutor and a math instructor, and we wouldn't be surprised if someday, amid all the talk of perfect numbers, the Pythagorean Theorem, and Pascal's Triangle, the students learn a little bit about 3D printing too.



## 9

### Can't Let That Trombone Lesson Slide

MLC senior **Tara Winecke** appears in this photo, but you can't see her.

She *can* be seen, though, by seventh grade trombone student Dan Hoogervorst. He can see Ms. Winecke and his band director, Mr. Amundson, in the little device propped up on the green plastic bin in the lower left corner of this photo.

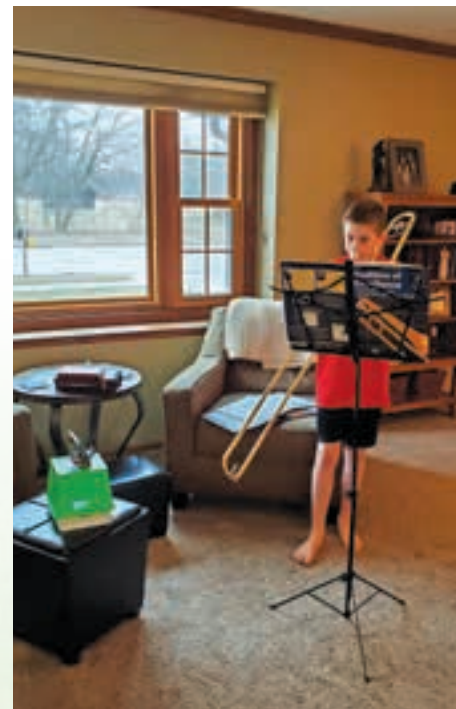
Tara (*Lincoln Heights Lutheran-Des Moines IA*) student taught this spring under Nate Amundson, Kettle Moraine LHS's director of elementary bands, and together they found a way to continue giving lessons to their young students.

Even when it came to grade school trombone lessons, they weren't going to let anything slide.

Dan's father, Pastor **James Hoogervorst** WLS '05 (*St. Lucas-Kewaskum WI*) was grateful for the extra effort: "As I was sitting at my kitchen table today working from home, I was moved to tears as I listened to my son's trombone lesson. It wasn't because the notes he was playing were so good (or so bad), but because of the efforts that were made to make sure he could have this lesson."

Pastor Hoogervorst also praised the faculty at St. Lucas for connecting with their students online. "We are thankful for the partnership we have with MLC that provides resources, guidance, and so many well-trained ministers of the gospel to our schools. Our college of ministry is to be commended for all the ways they have equipped our schools to meet the challenges of this time."

On a lighter (*ahem*) "note," he also was quick to say that his son loves having trombone lessons in shorts, T-shirt, and bare feet.



## 10

### Continuing Ed Pivots to Ed Tech

When schools across the country pivoted to distance learning, MLC's blog *Issues in Lutheran Education* took a pivot as well. **Dr. John Meyer** DMLC '87 and Communications Specialist Valerie Fischer focused the weekly blog on online learning.

"I was amazed at the response from our teaching online experts," said Val Fischer. "They put aside other things to write these blogs because they wanted to help their fellow teachers. What a great community!"

Educators who wrote specifically on online learning are Professor **Kelli Green** '92, Instructor **Jason Schmidt** '04, **Angela Hanson** '07/19, **Rachel Pierson** '05, and **Emily Grunwald** '08/16.



One teacher spoke for many in an online comment: *Thank you so much! I am an older teacher who has not used a lot of technology, so this was helpful!* [blogs.mlc-wels.edu/wels-educator](https://blogs.mlc-wels.edu/wels-educator)

The Continuing Education Office also quickly pulled together a free virtual conference, "Open Learning at MLC," for teachers all over the synod. Professors shared digital strategies for all levels, PreK-12, with over 900 teachers who enrolled.



## 11

## Learning at Home with the Schultz Boys

In a family of seven, you learn to share.

**Aaron and Luke Schultz** (*Zion-Rhineland WI*) shared limited living space and sometimes-sketchy WiFi with Dad, Mom, and three siblings this spring.

This senior preseminary student and sophomore education major had a lot of homework, but they finished strong—and wanted to thank the faculty for all their work.

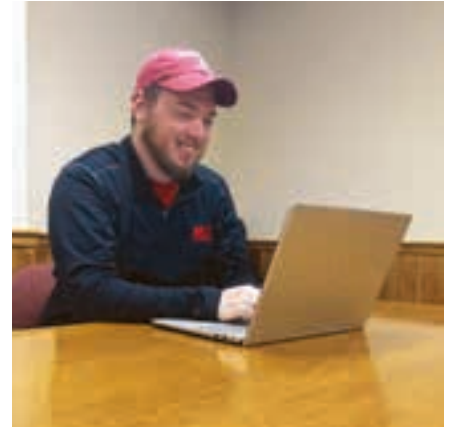
“Professor Keith Wessel graciously provided reading material, multiple PowerPoint videos, and scheduled group meets for us to succeed in Philosophy class,” Aaron said. “And Professor Paustian did an incredible job making the Hebrew text come to life.”

“I really enjoyed Bible History and Literature,” Luke added. “Our weekly discussion forum was similar to our in-person discussions on campus.”

Sure, there were challenges—like waiting for materials to load on slow WiFi and learning archery without actually using bows and arrows. But overall, it worked. And it taught the guys another lesson about sharing—sharing the gospel.

“This whole situation has made me more passionate in wanting to become a pastor,” Aaron said. “You can study Greek and Hebrew and learn the beautiful truths of God’s Word, but it becomes much more meaningful when you share those truths with fellow believers, whether in person or over a broadcast. I can imagine how hard it is for pastors to preach to an empty church, but that doesn’t mean God’s Word is powerless. Times such as these show the absolute power of God’s Word and the incredible comfort it brings to hurting hearts and souls.”

And Luke added, “I’d like to encourage everyone to continue to pray. Things will get better. Although things aren’t going according to our plan, they are going according to God’s plan.”



## 12

## STEM&M Quarantine Challenge



### STEM&M Challenge: Rube Goldberg Edition

Distance Learning  
April 2020

As if the pandemic itself isn’t complicated enough, MLC’s STEM&M Club—that’s Science, Technology, Engineering, Math & Ministry!—issued an at-home challenge that calls for complication and praises complexity.

The task: Make the best Rube Goldberg machine ever.

The winner was sophomore **Isaac Schulz** (*Bethany-Manitowoc WI*). With the help of his brother Josiah, he concocted a beautifully overcomplicated contraption (*pictured*) in his basement. It ran like the well-oiled machine it was, culminating in a culturally relevant roll of toilet paper that unrolled to reveal Proverbs 3:5: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” Check out all the Rube Goldberg machines at [mlc-wels.edu/go/stem-challenge](http://mlc-wels.edu/go/stem-challenge).

WE ARE ALL IN THIS

Together



## 13

### It's All in the Presentation

Portfolio reviews are a landmark event. On the brink of graduation, future teachers dress up, rehearse, and prepare to present themselves and their work to two reviewers.

Inside the precious binder they've painstakingly compiled is a collection of their work, documenting their competence in Minnesota Standards of Effective Practice (including assessment, instructional strategies, and much more) and their readiness for the teaching ministry.

This year **Micah Biesterfeld** (*St. John-New Ulm MN, pictured*) and other graduating education majors presented their portfolios via Google Meet.

As Micah presented to his two reviewers, **Dr. Jeff Wiechman** DMLC '92 and classmate **Alison Lindemann** (*St. John-Lewiston MN*), the nerves were still there, and the on-screen presentation felt a little awkward, but Micah says the experience was well worth it.

"Preparing and presenting a portfolio gets you to reflect on your past work and continued improvement. While combing through old work and recent student teaching material, you highlight your strengths and areas for further growth. Overall, this presentation gets you to realize all the important components for teaching that MLC has provided to help you grow as an educator."



## 14

### Virtual Visits Very Effective



When their two-day visit to Michigan Lutheran Seminary was cancelled, Admissions Counselors **Joel Thomford** WLS '88 and **Lori Unke** DMLC '84 (*both pictured*) scheduled

virtual appointments with the MLS students instead.

They met for 20 minutes with each junior interested in MLC. "We spoke to them as we normally do," Pastor Thomford said, "about their future plans and the blessings of serving Jesus full-time in the public ministry."

The visits went great—"even though some of the students didn't want to turn on their camera because they'd just rolled out of bed," he added.

Maybe because of the gravity of the pandemic, or maybe because talking in cyberspace is so easy, the counselors' conversations with the students were especially meaningful. "The students seemed more comfortable than usual sharing

their thoughts about their future and possibly serving in the ministry," Unke said. Thomford agreed that they were some of the "deepest and most spiritual conversations I've ever had with kids."

They talked with students not only about their futures, but about the present too. "Many of the teens are confused and disappointed in the situation," Professor Unke said. "So it's a really nice time to remind them God is in control and all things work together for the good of those who love him. We just have to be patient."

Pastor Thomford added, "I believe Jesus is already using this pandemic to help these high school students—and us—focus more on the joy and glory of heaven!"

The admissions team has continued to conduct these virtual visits with students from other high schools, and they've gone full-court on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter too.

Just to give the students something tangible, Pastor Thomford occasionally likes to follow up a virtual visit with a handwritten thank-you note and a pair of red MLC socks—sent to students through good old snail mail.



## 15

## What We'll Keep

*Reflections from the MLC Faculty & Staff*

We've learned a lot during this strange time: new ways of teaching and connecting and being. These lessons learned are certainly not worth the pain and loss of life this virus has wrought. Still, we don't want them to go to waste. When things get back to normal, here are some new corona-inspired habits we plan to keep:

**TEACHING**

- I'd like to make use of video chats with students to answer questions they have about assignments. **Jonathan Roux**
- I'd like to have my organ students occasionally record themselves and watch it to see what they can improve and to appreciate what they're doing right. **Kate Carlovsky**
- I'm thinking about offering more of my courses in an online format. **Dan Fenske**
- The materials I'm creating will help me to "flip" more of my communication class. Delivering content outside class time will open up wonderful spaces to be all the more unscripted and interactive when we're together. **Mark Paustian**
- I'd like to keep posting notes and explanation videos ahead of class time. I'd also like to continue intentionalized check-ins about workloads and emotional stability. **James Carlovsky**
- The foray into online teaching has forced me out of my "old school" design. I could see myself doing some more hybrid work in the future. **Paul Koelpin**
- I think I'll want to maintain a newfound level of patience and understanding as it relates to students' and co-workers' individual circumstances. Pandemic or no, quarantine or no, stay-in-place or no, there are always extenuating circumstances in their lives that affect the "big picture." I need to heighten my awareness of, listen to, and work with these circumstances as a professor, as a colleague, and as a vice president. **Jeff Wiechman**

**LIVING**

- Just taking one day at a time—because I'm really not the one in charge. **Wendy Ristow**
- Spending more time outside with my family. **John Meyer**
- Spending more time in devotion with my spouse. **Diane Tracy**
- I hope to continue to reach out daily to a different friend or family member to reconnect and offer scriptural words of encouragement. **Lisa Fenske**
- We definitely will keep meeting regularly as a family through videoconferencing. **Scott Schmudlach**
- I've rediscovered the Lutheran Chapel Service and plan to use it for a weekly morning meditation. **Steve Balza**
- I'm going to always take more time to sing the ABCs while I wash my hands—although I might use the Greek alphabet. **Joel Thomford**
- I'd like to keep the extra great family time that we have enjoyed. **Ross Stelljes**
- I'd like to keep a sense of urgency for sharing the gospel with my unchurched neighbors. **Elizabeth Wessel**
- I'd like to continue to play and sing hymns as a family. **Leah Matzke**
- I love how the time/day boundaries around formal worship have been removed. If I wake up on a Tuesday morning and want a worship service, all I have to do is click, and the Word is filling this place. **Kelli Green**
- I hope the memory of this keeps us appreciative of what we have. I also hope our graduates and students see clearly, now more than ever, that good teachers are essential! They can be proud of the path they are on! **Bethel Boeder**

## 16

## Helping Big Heroes Care for Their Littles



In adherence with Governor Tim Walz's guidelines, our Early Childhood Learning Center closed for two weeks and then reopened March 30 to children of Tier 1 emergency workers. This included workers in healthcare, law enforcement, education, and other areas.

On May 4, we expanded childcare services to Tier 2 families. This included workers in transportation, energy, social services, and others.

We know these workers are big heroes, and we're happy to help them care for their littles.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS

*Together*



# 19 COVID-19 Stories

17

## A Wrinkle in the Wedding Plans

**Jiacheng (Nicholas) Liu** (*St. Martin-Watertown SD*) and **Kayla Rosenbaum** (*Grace-St. Joseph MI*) got married on May 25, one week after they graduated. But other than that date, every detail of this wedding was altered by the virus.

Originally, they were going to make their vows at MLC's Chapel of the Christ. Nic's parents were coming from China for both commencement and wedding. Then Nic and Kayla were flying back to China to celebrate with Nic's family.

But no. The couple was married at Kayla's church, Grace-St. Joseph, Michigan. Everyone but Kayla's family attended virtually, and an earlier start, 10 am, enabled Nic's parents in China to watch during daytime hours.

There was no hampering of the happiness though. "We're overjoyed to be married," Kayla says. "This could not have happened without our supporting family and our all-powerful God. This pandemic couldn't stop us!"



18

## Is Distance Learning the Wave of the Future in Ministerial Education?



By **Dr. Jeffery Wiechman** *DMLC '92*

"Training a corps of Christian witnesses qualified to meet the ministerial needs of the WELS" (MLC's mission statement) is no small task. It is no simple task. And yet, under God's grace and blessing, we strive to carry it out with each new semester on the campus of your WELS College of Ministry.

The fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about unprecedented circumstances requiring distance learning protocols and necessitating a shift-on-the-fly mentality among faculty and students.

Was distance learning difficult? You bet.

Will we ever have to do it again? Maybe.

Does it have a place in the training of future called workers?

Perhaps, to a certain extent.

Should it be the wave of the future? To put it simply: no.

Ministry training involves people. People who model ministry. People who model ministry in worship, in classroom pedagogy, and in the way they conduct themselves.

These models take the form of professors, advisors, mentors, coaches, and dorm supervisors. They are encouragers, cheerleaders, and at times disciplinarians. They are the pastors, teachers, and staff ministers who eagerly pass on to the next generation what they have learned from generations past.

No Google, Zoom, or Microsoft platform can do that.

Ministry training requires a personal touch. As God wills it, and as safety and situations allow, this is the approach MLC will take.

The alumni photos at the bottom of the pages are from the anniversary classes of MLC, NWC, and DMLC: '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.



**Katherine  
von Stein**  
*DMLC 1970*  
*Bluffton OH*



**Larry  
Collyard**  
*DMLC 1970*  
*White Bear Lake MN*

# 19

## Unprecedented Pandemic? Not Really.

By **Clarice Fastenau** DMLC '60

While writing notes of encouragement or making phone calls to fellow church members, I frequently said we were experiencing an unprecedented pandemic. I was wrong. The flu pandemic of 1918-1919 was very similar and as devastating as our current COVID-19 pandemic.

According to most sources, the 1918-1919 flu pandemic lasted 15 months. Worldwide 500 million people got the flu, and 50 million died, 675,000 of them in the United States. The first wave wasn't severe, but the second, which started in September 1918, was disastrous. Schools, theaters, places of worship, and other public gathering areas were closed. In October 1918, 195,000 Americans died. The third wave began in January 1919 and was less severe.



The 1918-1919 D.M.L.C. Messenger staff documented the effects of the pandemic on campus life.

The pandemic also affected Dr. Martin Luther College. On October 14, 1918, DMLC students were sent home because the health officer of the city ordered that all schools be closed. Classes resumed on December 10, 1918, and most students returned. The annual Christmas concert was presented on December 22, and on December 24 all but 14 students left for home to celebrate the holidays. Because of the extended autumn "vacation," school resumed on December 27, and the first

semester was extended to March 3.

A March 1919 DMLC Messenger article entitled "Rumors" stated, "During the outbreak of the influenza a rumor got started that we had the 'flu' in the dormitory. People began to distrust and look upon us as a pest-house and a source of danger to the community, while as a matter of fact we did not have a single case during the entire epidemic."

The same issue did report that one student was hospitalized with a slight attack of the flu, and a professor became ill with the flu in November and didn't return to teaching until January 1. An alumnus died December 12, 1918, at the age of 20 from the flu.

We trust that our loving God will see us through this pandemic as he did in 1918-1919 and allow the training of future teachers, pastors, and staff ministers to continue at MLC as it has so many years.



December 1918 issue of D.M.L.C. Messenger

**Want to learn more?** A significant historical record of DMLC, NWC, and MLC has been digitized and posted at [mlc-wels.edu/history](http://mlc-wels.edu/history). You can easily search for names and events in the college yearbooks, catalogs, and the D.M.L.C. Messenger. Coming online soon: NWC Black & Red!

WE ARE ALL IN THIS

*Together*



**Debbra Schams**  
DMLC 1995  
Dakota MN



**Thomas Schultz**  
NWC 1985  
Merrill WI



**Emily Schroeder**  
MLC 2010  
Roscoe SD



**Wade Johnston**  
MLC 2000  
Livonia MI



## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

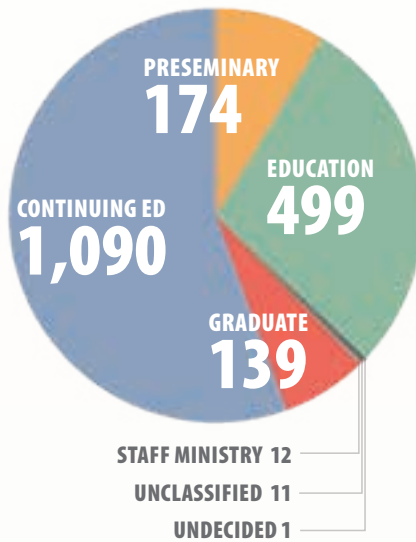
**697** Undergraduates  
**99%** Traditional-age Students  
**49%** Men **51%** Women  
 Representing  
**33** states and **6** countries

## FIRST-YEAR STUDENT PROFILE:

**3.62** Average HS GPA  
**25.1** Average ACT

**87** On-campus Faculty (tenured, adjunct, other) **12:1** Student/Teacher Ratio

**ENROLLMENT: 1,926**



## TURNING THE TASSEL

**DEC 2019** **13** Education  
**1** Preseminary

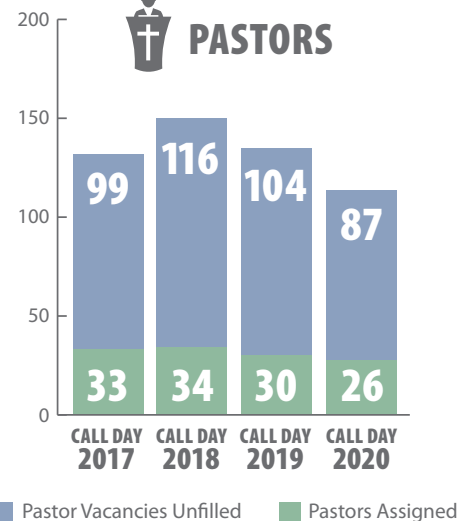
**MAY 2020** **108** Education  
**40** Preseminary  
**23** Master of Science



## ASSIGNED TO MINISTRIES



### PASTORS



## MINISTERIAL TRAINING DURING A PANDEMIC YEAR



Classroom Instruction



Chapel Services

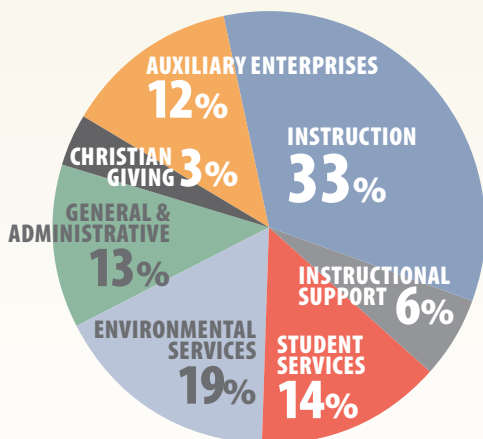


Growing Together In Grace

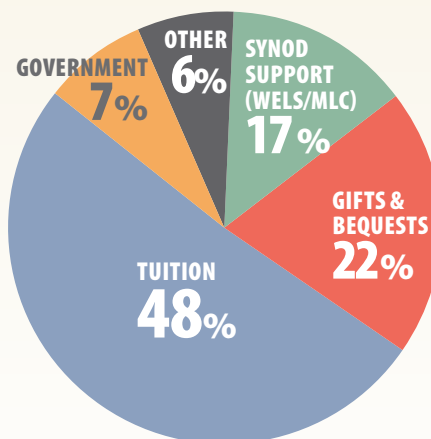
**26** Weeks In-Person **10** Weeks Online

## BUDGET 2018-2019\* \$20.5 MILLION

Where does the money go?



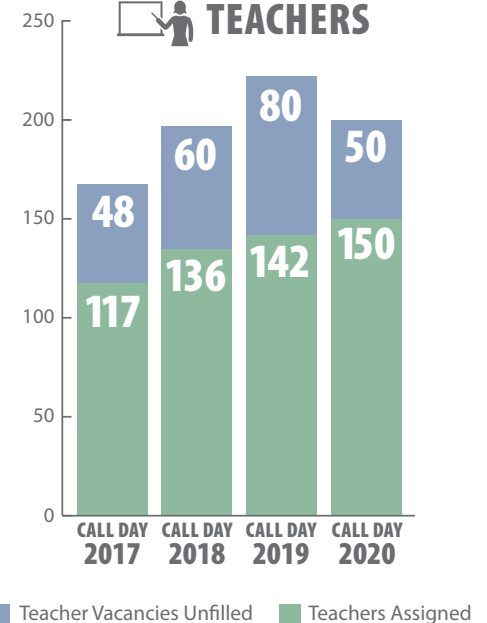
Where does the money come from?



\*2019-2020 figures not yet available.



### TEACHERS



# NOON, & KNIGHT



## TUITION, ROOM & BOARD

<b>2018</b>	Tuition	\$15,410
<b>2019</b>	Room & Board	\$6,080
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,490</b>

<b>2019</b>	Tuition	\$15,870
<b>2020</b>	Room & Board	\$6,260
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,130</b>

<b>2020</b>	Tuition	\$16,420
<b>2021</b>	Room & Board	\$6,480
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,900</b>

## STUDENT DEBT

**75%** Students who graduate with debt  
**\$27,000** Average debt those students carry



## CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER GRANT PROGRAM

**\$986,371** Awarded  
(church grants + MLC match)

**604** Students receiving grants  
**278** Participating congregations

### A Brief Summary of MLC's Philosophy of Financial Assistance and Student Indebtedness

## THE WEIGHT OF COLLEGE DEBT



## TAKING THE WEIGHT OFF



**WE ARE GRATEFUL** for the WELS operating subsidy, which comes from Congregational Mission Offerings (CMO) and funds about 17% of MLC's budget, and for gifts given directly to MLC. WELS support, coupled with careful stewardship at MLC, allows MLC to keep costs relatively low.

**WE ARE CONCERNED.** About 75 percent of MLC students graduate with debt, that debt averaging \$27,000. Though lower than the national average, this figure is still cause for concern and prayer. Many graduates enter their public ministries carrying this burden—a burden exacerbated by the lower lifetime earning potential of called workers compared to college graduates in other fields.

This financial burden also has a negative effect on recruitment. Most high school students and their parents list cost as the most important factor in their college choice. In a competitive college marketplace, we are at a disadvantage.

**WE ARE RESPONDING.** Please join us in addressing this challenge:

- **Increase gifts to financial aid** so we can offer more competitive financial aid packages to prospective students
- **Enhance student financial literacy**, which will have positive impact long after graduation.

- **Encourage family financial support.** Parents' contributions reduce their children's debt load and assist them to make a stronger beginning in public ministry.
- **Urge students to utilize government loans judiciously** and assist them with loan repayment options.

**OUR GOAL:** *Cut student indebtedness in half in ten years.* The current ratio of debt to starting salary is 92 percent. The goal is to reduce that ratio to 46 percent in ten years.

In 2020 dollars, a \$1,500 per year increase in each of three areas—student contribution, family contribution, and financial aid—would result in an \$18,000 decrease in the average debt over four years. That would more than meet this goal!

**OUR PRAYER:** In this, as in all things, we ask God to help us. May our efforts ease the financial burden our graduates carry, remove hindrances to ministry recruitment, and raise an ever larger corps of Christian witnesses who are qualified to meet WELS ministry needs.

Find the full text of this document at [mlc-wels.edu/go/fasi](http://mlc-wels.edu/go/fasi).



# Commencement 2020



*Lisa Lindemann*

**Vice President Jeff Wiechman** DMLC '92 read Lisa's name, she stood up, and her family cheered.

Yes, the 2020 graduation ceremony contained a little less pomp due to circumstances. And yet the Word was preached, the names were called, and the prayers of thanks rose to the Lord

At 10 am on Saturday, May 16, **Lisa Lindemann** was ready. Dressed in the cap, gown, tassel, and medallion she'd received from MLC in the mail, surrounded by her family and holding her diploma, she watched the livestreamed commencement service. The family listened as **President Mark Zarling** WLS '80 preached (excerpt on page 2), and when

of the Church. Another class of men and women officially joined the corps of Christian witnesses qualified to meet WELS ministry needs:

**Preseminary:** 40 graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree or Seminary Certification, equipping them to enroll at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS).

**Education/Staff Ministry:** 108 graduated with a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Science-Education degree.

**Graduate Studies:** 23 graduated with a Master of Science-Education or Master of Science-Educational Administration degree.

"The last time I was at MLC, it was in a hurried frenzy. A First Corinthians paper was due. I had a tryout for Children's Theatre. I needed to take a Hebrew test a day early. The bus for choir tour was leaving in less than a half-hour, and I hadn't even grabbed a bite to eat.

"Little did I know that hamburger I practically swallowed in one gulp would be my last meal in the cafeteria. Little did I know the Hebrew test would be my last in-person test at MLC. I said goodbye to friends for what I thought would be a couple weeks—little did I know it would be for so much more.

"Oh, what I would have given just to know—to know it was my last time on campus, last time surrounded by brothers and sisters at MLC. I would have aken it in, appreciated the final moments. Maybe I would have done things just a bit differently. . . .

"One day removed from my virtual college graduation, I'm feeling very thankful. Thankful for technology, which still allowed me to gather with my whole family. Thankful for the wonderful Christian education I received at Martin Luther College. Thankful for the faithful professors, coaches, advisors, and staff who helped make MLC such a special place, even from a distance! Thankful for the lasting friendships I've made during my years there. Thankful for the countless memories through plays, cross country, choir tours, student events, nights out with friends, and more.

"I wouldn't have these four years be any different. Thank you, gracious God, for my time at MLC. On to the seminary. Soli Deo Gloria!"

**Ryan Gurgel** '20 (Christ Alone-Thiensville WI)



*Kaitlyn Solofra and Noah Panzer*



**Kevin Salzwedel**  
NWC 1980  
Phoenix



**Peggy Acker**  
DMLC 1980  
Lansing MI



**Ricky Matter**  
NWC 1990  
Menomonee Falls WI



**Anita Rupprecht**  
DMLC 1960  
Milwaukee



# Call Day 2020

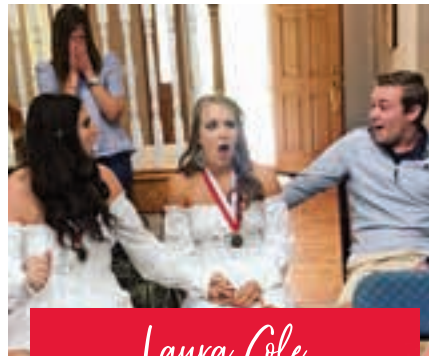
Commencement Day is also Call Day. **WELS President Mark Schroeder** WLS '81 read the 150 assignments issued to our education majors—calls to early childhood, elementary, and high school ministries, and one staff ministry. We sent them off to their new callings, confident that the Lord of the Church will bless their ministries.



*Crystal Carmichael*



*Laurel Hirschmann*



*Laura Cole*



*Katherine Warner*



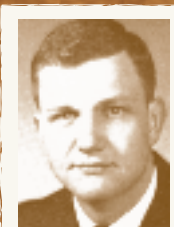
*Lydia Thiesfeldt*

Early in May, each graduate received a package containing everything they needed for their graduation watch party: cap, gown, medallion, tassel, diploma cover, and several other keepsake items, including a congratulatory letter from President Zarling.

In part, he wrote: *As you peruse the contents of this box, analyze your emotions. Is there some sadness? Don't let that sadness settle. We live by faith and not by sight. So look at the box again. Despite the pandemic, the Savior provided you the strength to persist and complete the semester. Though we are not gathered together in the MLC gym, the Spirit gathers us in Jesus and unites us in faith across the many miles. Despite sheltering at home, you now willingly step forward into the next phase of your pilgrimage, knowing that Jesus says, "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you."*



*Adam Kock and Joshua Schroeder*



**James Kiecker**  
NWC 1960  
Appleton WI



**Linda Wellstein**  
DMLC 1995  
Waukesha WI



**Mitchell Krauss**  
NWC 1985  
Freeland MI



**Mikaela Raddatz**  
MLC 2010  
Hastings MN



# MLC AND WLS GRADUATES

## ARIZONA-CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

**Benjamin Feddersen** (Great Mills MD) to **St. Paul/First LS-North Hollywood CA**: upper grades (reassigned for second year)

**Tessa Heiling** (Redwood Falls MN) to **California LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor (reassigned for third year)

**Taylor James** (Escondido CA) to **Grace Lutheran Child Learning Center-Sahuarita AZ**: K4 (assignment made permanent)

**Evan Kolander** (Menomonee Falls WI) to **East Fork LHS**: social studies (one-year assignment)

**Caroline Madson** (Acworth GA) to **East Fork LS-Whiteriver AZ**: gr 3 (reassigned for second year)

**Chantell McGill** (Saint Charles MN) to **East Fork LS-Whiteriver AZ**: gr 7 (one-year assignment)

**Sarah Quinn** (Wisconsin Dells WI) to **East Fork LS-Whiteriver AZ**: gr 2 (reassigned for second year)

**Joshua Rathje** (Mount Pleasant WI) to **Shepherd LC-Albuquerque NM**: pastor

**Rachel Severeid** (Manitowoc WI) to **Cross of Glory LS-Peoria AZ**: gr 3-4 (reassigned for second year)

**Jade St. Germaine** (Watertown WI) to **Arizona LA**: social studies, coaching

**Hannah Stegman** (New Hope MN) to **St. Mark LS-Citrus Heights CA**: gr 3-5 (one-year assignment)

**Joshua Tomlin** (Lannon WI) to **Apostles LS-San Jose**: gr 5, coaching

**Zachary VonDeylen** (Friendswood TX) to **Good Shepherd/Resurrection LC-Phoenix**: pastor

**Timothy Weddle** (Bothell WA) to **California LHS**: dormitory supervisor, instructor (reassigned for second year)

## DAKOTA-MONTANA DISTRICT

**Rebecca Doering** (Lake Mills WI) to **Great Plains LHS**: dormitory supervisor, instructor (one-year assignment)

**James Hemmelman** (Winona MN) to **St. Paul LC-Rapid City SD**: graduate associate to district president

**Chester Reinemann** (St. Paul) to **St. Paul LC-Calgary, Alberta**: pastor

**Kenneth Reschke** (De Pere WI) to **Trinity LC-Sturgis SD**: pastor

**Thomas Rockhoff** (Wichita KS) to **Prince of Peace LC-Yankton SD**: pastor

**Tyler Wahl** (Holmen WI) to **Great Plains LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor (reassigned for second year)

## MICHIGAN DISTRICT

**Martha Balge** (New Ulm MN) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (one-year assignment)

**Adam Bilitz** (Cottage Grove WI) to **St. Paul LS-Columbus OH**: gr 7-8, principal training program

**Hannah Brohn** (Hudson WI) to **St. Paul LS-Columbus OH**: gr 5-6, athletic director

**Jacob Brohn** (Hudson WI) to **Bethany LC-Gibsonia PA**: pastor

**Grace Cook** (West Salem WI) to **St. John LS-Westland MI**: gr 1-2

**Shannon Eggers** (West Bend WI) to **Michigan LHS**: fine arts (reassigned for second year)

**Matthew Hatzung** (Maplewood MN) to **Trinity LC-Bay City MI**: associate pastor

**Nathanael Jensen** (Ixonia WI) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

**Samuel Koepsell** (New Ulm MN) to **Trinity LS-Jenera OH**: gr 7-8 (one-year assignment)

**Christian Kuether** (New Ulm MN) to **Michigan LHS**: dorm supervisor, social studies (reassigned for second year)

**Emily Orvis** (Fond du Lac WI) to **St. Bartholomew LS-Kawkawlin MI**: gr 1-2

**Ian Paulsen** (Ashippun WI) to **St. John LS-Bay City MI**: gr 7-8, principal apprentice (one-year assignment)

**Ida Paulsen** (Manhattan KS) to **Trinity LS-Bay City MI**: ECE (one-year assignment)

**Jason Petoskey** (Wyoming MI) to **Salem LC-Ann Arbor MI**: staff minister (one-year assignment)

**Dillon Solomon** (Troy MI) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (one-year assignment)

**Adam Stevens** (Larsen WI) to **Beautiful Savior LS-Grove City OH**: gr 6-8, principal (assignment made permanent)

**Tiffany Stevens** (Freedom WI) to **Beautiful Savior LS-Grove City OH**: gr 3-5

**Lailah Thabatah** (Lansing MI) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (one-year assignment)

## MINNESOTA DISTRICT

**Jennifer Adickes** (La Crosse WI) to **St. Peter LS-St. Peter MN**: gr 2-3, worship planning, music (one-year assignment)

**Hannah Black** (Gibbon MN) to **Little Lambs Learning Center-Duluth MN**: K4

**Ethan Boese** (Milwaukee) to **Zion LC-Sanborn MN**: pastor

**Noelle Boucher** (Henderson CO) to **Jesus Loves Me Learning Center-North Mankato MN**: K2-toddler (one-year assignment)

**Crystal Carmichael** (Shakopee MN) to **St. Croix LA**: dormitory supervisor, middle school math, PE

**Chloe Doble** (Ortonville MI) to **Samuel LS-Marshall MN**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

**Richard Eckmann** (Trimont MN) to **St. John LS-Dakota MN**: gr 5-6, coaching, PE (one-year assignment)

**Allison Hofland** (Elgin MN) to **St. John LS-Lake City MN**: K, language arts



**Sarah Lassila**  
DMLC 1990  
Richardson TX



**Kenneth Moeller**  
DMLC 1950  
Fairmont MN



**Emily Lai**  
MLC 2015  
Yakima WA



**Terry Ledermann**  
DMLC 1975  
Apple Valley CA

# Assigned to Your District

**Hailey Johnson** (Greenleaf WI) to **Minnesota Valley LHS**: Spanish, literature, athletics (assignment made permanent)

**Karl Kuschel** (Mukwonago WI) to **St. Croix LA**: dorm supervisor, gr 7-11 math (reassigned for third year)

**Sora Lee** (Daejeon, South Korea) to **West LHS**: calculus, trigonometry, algebra

**Micah Plocher** (Vassar MI) to **Trinity LC-Nicollet MN**: pastor

**Emma Schibbelhut** (Onalaska WI) to **Crown of Life LS-West St. Paul MN**: gr 1, choir (one-year assignment)

**Hans Thomford** (Chesaning MI) to **Martin Luther College**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

**Jordan Uhlhorn** (Scottsdale AZ) to **Martin Luther College**: tutor (one-year assignment)

## NEBRASKA DISTRICT

**Christopher Beagle** (Winona MN) to **Nebraska LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor (reassigned for second year)

**Sarah Dewey** (Onalaska WI) to **Little Lambs Preschool-Valentine NE**: preschool

**Moriah Hackbarth** (Lake Mills WI) to **Nebraska LHS**: math, coaching

**Anna Hemmelman** (Winona MN) to **Gethsemane LS-Omaha**: gr 3-4

**Nicolas Jenswold** (DeForest WI) to **Good Shepherd LC-Kearney NE**: pastor

**Yiling Leng** (Hangzhou, China) to **Prince of Peace LS-Salt Lake City**: K

**Lisa Lindemann** (Valders WI) to **St. Paul LS-Norfolk NE**: gr 5-8 administrative release time, staff minister

**Aaron Markgraf** (Cincinnati) to **St. Paul LS-Norfolk NE**: gr 5-8, principal

**Rebecca Pruss** (Fond du Lac WI) to **Lord of Life LS-Thornton CO**: gr 3-4 (two-year assignment)

**Adrianna Sayles** (Grand Blanc MI) to **Nebraska LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor (one-year assignment)

**Bryan Walkley** (Onalaska WI) to **Nebraska LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor (reassigned for second year)

**Rylee Weisensel** (New Ulm MN) to **Nebraska LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor (reassigned for second year)

## NORTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

**Claire Ellingboe** (Wrightstown WI) to **Grace Lutheran Child Care-Charlotte NC**: K3 (one-year assignment)

**Alex Kirchenwitz** (Weston WI) to **Divine Peace LC-Largo MD**: pastor

## NORTHERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

**Wesley Aguilar** (Wildomar CA) to **St. John LS-Peshtigo WI**: gr 6-8 (one-year assignment)

**Sophia Birner** (Lusaka, Zambia) to **Morrison Zion LS-Greenleaf WI**: gr 5-6, science, athletic director

**Emily Byhardt** (Germantown WI) to **Trinity LS-Kaukauna WI**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

**Charles Crass** (Rock Island IL) to **Holy Cross LC-Daggett MI/St. Mark LC-Wallace MI**: pastor

**Katherine Curtis** (Palmetto GA) to **St. Mark LS-Green Bay WI**: gr 2

**Sarah Goldschmidt** (Milwaukee) to **Zion LS-Egg Harbor WI**: gr 5-8

**Travis Kretsch** (New Ulm MN) to **Winnebago LA**: social studies, coaching (assignment made permanent)

**Abby Loescher** (Racine WI) to **St. Paul LS-North Fond du Lac WI**: ECE

**Joseph Loescher** (Jackson WI) to **St. Paul LS-North Fond du Lac WI**: gr 5-6, athletic director, technology

**Matthew Neumann** (Fond du Lac WI) to **Trinity LS-Neenah WI**: gr 5-6

**Sarah Osterman** (Zumbrota MN) to **Emanuel LS-New London WI**: gr 5

**Connor Ragner** (Shiocton WI) to **St. Mark LS-Green Bay WI**: gr 7

**Megan Schoenbach** (Oshkosh WI) to **Shepherd of the Valley LS-Menasha WI**: ECE teacher, director (assignment made permanent)

**Emma Schultz** (Elkhorn WI) to **First German LS-Manitowoc WI**: gr 7-8

**Gabrielle Steidl** (New Berlin WI) to **Fox Valley LHS**: gr 9 & 11 Spanish, English

**Katlynn Tindall** (Waukesha WI) to **St. John LS-Montello WI**: gr 3-5

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

**Paul Bourman** (New York NY) to **Gethsemane LC-Tigard OR (mission restart)**: pastor

**Simon Duoth** (Auburn WA) to **South Sudanese Outreach**: pastor

**Elijah Kroll** (Kumba, Cameroon) to **Grace LS-Kenai AK**: gr 5-8, principal (assignment made permanent)

**Emily Muir** (Watertown WI) to **Evergreen LHS**: English, coaching (one-year assignment)

**Stephanie Rockhoff** (Kenosha WI) to **Faith LS-Anchorage AK**: ECE director (assignment made permanent)

**Christopher Royce** (Green Bay WI) to **Messiah LC-Olympia WA**: pastor

**Vincent West-Hallwas** (Beach Park IL) to **Christ the King LS-Bremerton WA**: gr 5-6, Principal Training Program (reassigned for third year)

**Qiang Wang** (Coquitlam, British Columbia) to **Abiding Love LC-Coquitlam, British Columbia**: pastor (one-year assignment)

**Holly Wildeman** (Gaylord MI) to **Immanuel LS-Salem OR**: ECE, lower grades (assignment made permanent)

## SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

**Cassandra Anklaam** (Saginaw MI) to **Ascension LS-Sarasota FL**: gr 6-8

**Laura Cole** (Saginaw MI) to **Abiding Peace Academy-Simpsonville SC**: gr 2-3 (one-year assignment)



**Dianne Degner**  
DMLC 1965  
Wonewoc WI



**Joel Stuebs**  
MLC 2000  
Platteville WI



**Carroll Berndt**  
DMLC 1965  
Arlington MN



**James Thrams**  
NWC 1950  
Watertown WI



# MLC AND WLS GRADUATES

## SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Hannah Compton (Pearland TX) to **New Hope LA-West Melbourne FL**: K

Elisabeth Hahm (Hilton NY) to **Risen Savior Christian Academy-Pooler GA**: gr 5-6

Sarah Kjenstad (Aberdeen SD) to **Small Steps Christian Learning Center-Port Orange FL**: preschool

Elsie Koutia (Glendale AZ) to **Good Shepherd LA-Deltona FL**: gr 7-8

Jiacheng Liu (Shanghai, China) to **Divine Savior Academy-Doral FL**: gr 11-12 chemistry, physics

Jonathan Neumann (Sturgis SD) to **Prince of Peace LC-Martinez GA**: pastor

Josiah Nommensen (Cudahy WI) to **King of Kings LS-Maitland FL**: gr 3-5

Kayla Rosenbaum (St. Joseph MI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Doral FL**: gr 4

Hannah Rundgren (Citrus Springs FL) to **Divine Savior Academy-Doral FL**: gr 2

Joshua VonDeylen (Friendswood TX) to **Good Shepherd LA-Deltona FL**: principal apprentice (one-year assignment)

## SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Alec Bergmann (Slinger WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Sienna Plantation TX**: gr 5, Principal Training Program (reassigned for third year)

Kendra Bergmann (Slinger WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Sienna Plantation TX**: K (reassigned for third year)

Mary Falck (Germantown WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Sienna Plantation TX**: gr 3-4

Joel Hering (Rowlett TX) to **Holy Word LC-Austin**: graduate associate to district president

Elissa Koch (Summerville SC) to **Lord of Life LS-Friendswood TX**: gr 2-3

Daniel Schmidt (Bittern Lake, Alberta) to **Trinity LC-Mountain Home AR**: pastor

Lydia Thiesfeldt (Fond du Lac WI) to **CrossLife Christian Academy-Pflugerville TX**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Maria Tomassetti (Sussex WI) to **Abiding Word LS-Houston**: gr 1

Katherine Warner (Farmington Hills MI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Sienna Plantation TX**: gr 1-2

## SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Timothy Babinec (Onalaska WI) to **St. Philip LS-Milwaukee**: gr 3 (assignment made permanent)

Zachary Bork (San Jose) to **Our Savior LS-Zion IL**: gr 7-8 (one-year assignment)

Sydney Cody (Juneau WI) to **Atonement LS-Milwaukee**: gr 2 (one-year assignment)

Cassandra Doering (Lake Mills WI) to **Little Town of Bethlehem Preschool-Carmel IN**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Andrew Eggers (West Bend WI) to **St. Marcus LS-Milwaukee**: gr 7-8, social studies (one-year assignment)

Anna Gartner (Hortonville WI) to **Bethlehem LS-Menomonee Falls WI**: gr 6 (reassigned for second year)

Megan Garvin (Wildomar CA) to **Shoreland LHS**: English

Laurel Hirschmann (New Ulm MN) to **St. Marcus LS-Milwaukee**: music director (one-year assignment)

Rachel Hoffmann (Buffalo MN) to **Word of Life LS-Milwaukee**: gr 7-8 (one-year assignment)

Joseph Keller (McLean VA) to **Illinois LS-Crete IL**: gr 3

Paul Koester (West Allis WI) to **Bethlehem LC-Menomonee Falls WI**: associate pastor

Maggie Lindemann (New Ulm MN) to **Trinity LS (ELS)-West Bend WI**: gr 3-4 (reassigned for second year)

Emily Loberger (Manitowoc WI) to **Risen Savior LS-Milwaukee**: gr 5 (one-year assignment)

Grace Marquardt (Cypress TX) to **St. Philip LS-Milwaukee**: gr 6 (one-year assignment)

John Marquardt (Racine WI) to **St. Philip LS-Milwaukee**: gr 7 (reassigned for second year)

Elizabeth Miller (St. Paul) to **Star of Bethlehem LS-New Berlin WI**: gr 3

Hayden Miller (Essexville MI) to **First LS-Lake Geneva WI**: gr 5-8

Thomas Nicholson (Portage WI) to **Resurrection LC-Aurora IL**: associate pastor

Katelyn Raddatz (Sparta WI) to **Risen Savior LS-Milwaukee**: gr 2 (one-year assignment)

Lucinda Richardson (Wildomar CA) to **St. Lucas LS-Milwaukee**: gr 8, STEM (assignment made permanent)

Arianna Sanchez (Milwaukee) to **Christ/St. Peter LS-Milwaukee**: gr 7 (one-year assignment)

Emma Schneck (Monroe MI) to **St. Philip LS-Milwaukee**: gr 4 (assignment made permanent)

Michael Schoenfeld (Lake Mills WI) to **Friedens LS-Kenosha WI**: gr 5

Sarah Schoenfeld (Fort Atkinson WI) to **Friedens LS-Kenosha WI**: gr 4

Faith Schroeder (Novi MI) to **Mt. Lebanon LS-Milwaukee**: gr 4-8 (assignment made permanent)

Kylah Schultz (Modesto CA) to **Atonement LS-Milwaukee**: ECE, childcare (reassigned for second year)

Morgan Shevey (Muskego WI) to **Risen Savior LS-Milwaukee**: gr 3 (one-year assignment)

Brittany Steinfeldt (Chesaning MI) to **Risen Savior LS-Milwaukee**: gr 4 (one-year assignment)

Laura Steinke (New Ulm MN) to **Trinity LS-Waukesha WI**: gr 7, athletics (reassigned)

Grace Ungemach (Lexington SC) to **Salem LS-Milwaukee**: gr 7 (one-year assignment)

Katherine Van Alstine (Howards Grove WI) to **Illinois LHS**: math



Charles  
Iles  
NWC 1970  
Saginaw MI



Lori  
Kilber  
DMLC 1985  
Minneapolis



Craig  
Wilke  
MLC 2015  
Fort Atkinson WI



Joann  
Dast  
DMLC 1975  
Pigeon MI

# Assigned to Your District

Kassandra Wagner (Sioux Falls SD) to **Atonement LS-Milwaukee**: gr 7 (one-year assignment)

Justin Wintrone (Onalaska WI) to **St. John LS-Libertyville IL**: upper grades

## WESTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Christopher Biebert (Neillsville WI) to **St. Mark LS-Eau Claire WI**: gr 7-8, athletic director, Principal Training Program

Micah Biesterfeld (New Ulm MN) to **St. John LS-Baraboo WI**: upper grades

Allison Boggs (Royal Palm Beach FL) to **St. Paul LS-Tomah WI**: lower grades (one-year assignment)

Jacob Bohlmann (Crete IL) to **St. Stephen LS-Beaver Dam WI**: gr 5-6 (one-year assignment)

Eric Dorn (Crete IL) to **Lakeside LHS**: religion, soccer (assignment made permanent)

Mitchell Giovannettone (Watertown SD) to **St. Paul LS-Lake Mills WI**: gr 6, Principal Training Program (reassigned for second year)

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

Mikayla Hodkiewicz (DeForest WI) to **St. John LS-Pardeeville WI**: gr 3-5

Caleb Klatt (New Hope MN) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Micah Koelpin (Dallas) to **Good Shepherd LC-Beloit WI**: pastor

Sarah Krueger (Round Rock TX) to **Trinity LS (ELS)-West Bend WI**: gr 7-8 (one-year assignment)

Nathan Lemke (Jefferson WI) to **Our Savior LS-Wausau WI**: upper grades

Jacob Limpert (Rochester MN) to **St. Paul LC-Wonewoc WI**: pastor

Alison Lindemann (Lewiston MN) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Nathaniel Lindloff (Lansing MI) to **St. Paul LS-Tomah WI**: upper grades (one-year assignment)

Holly Marquardt (Guntur, India) to **Westside Christian School-Middleton WI**: upper grades, language arts

Luke Miller (Indianapolis) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Matthew Neumann (Fond du Lac WI) to **St. John LS-Fox Lake WI**: upper grades (one-year assignment)

Corey Paske (Arlington WI) to **St. Paul LS-Onalaska WI**: gr 8, Principal Training Program

Nicholas Quinnett (Colwich KS) to **St. John LC-Watertown WI**: associate pastor

Brooke Rhoden (New London WI) to **St. Paul LS-Lake Mills WI**: gr 5 (assignment made permanent)

Joseph Rodewald (Greenville SC) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Tyler Roecker (Campbellsport WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Morgan Routhieaux (Sturgeon Bay WI) to **Immanuel LS-Medford WI**: upper grades, math

Emily Schmidt (Richfield WI) to **St. Paul LS-Tomah WI**: lower grades, music

Caleb Schulz (Manitowoc WI) to **St. Paul LS-Moline IL**: upper grades

Joel Sonntag (Milwaukee) to **St. Matthew LS-Stoddard WI**: upper grades, principal

Jamie Spaude (Greenfield WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Tyler Swiderski (Minneapolis) to **St. Peter LC-Brodhead WI**: pastor

Lucas Thooft (Marshall MN) to **St. John LS-Sparta WI**: gr 3-4 (one-year assignment)

Andrew Westra (Columbia TN) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Kelli Wallander (Appleton WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (reassigned for third year)

Erin Wenzel (Appleton WI) to **Christ/St. John LS-West Salem WI**: 3K-4K

Tara Winecke (Altoona IA) to **St. John LS-Waterloo WI**: K-2, music

## HOME & WORLD MISSIONS

Elizabeth Bartz (Eau Claire MI) to **Grace LS-Grand Anse, Grenada**: grades TBD (one-year assignment)

Micah Jarvis (St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda) to **St. John LS-St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda**: gr 6

Jenna Miller (Combined Locks WI) to **St. John LS-St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda**: gr 5 (reassigned for second year)

## INTERNATIONAL SITES CHOSEN BY GRADUATES

Anastasia Bornschlegl (Rochester MN) to **Southeast Asia**

Caleb Christopher (Sharpsburg GA) to **Chile**

Clayton Fury (Houston) to **Peru**

Daniel Gensmer (Cape Coral FL) to **Peru**

Rachel Gresock (Linden MI) to **Southeast Asia**

Markus Klingenschmitt (Rosemount MN) to **Southeast Asia**

Jacob Melso (Port Edwards WI) to **Southeast Asia**

### KEY:

ECE – Early Childhood Education  
LA – Lutheran Academy  
LC – Lutheran Church  
LHS – Lutheran High School  
LS – Lutheran School

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



Luke Miller  
MLC 2015  
Indianapolis IN



Renee Ody  
MLC 2005  
West Allis WI



John Braun  
NWC 1965  
West St. Paul MN



Elise Lange  
MLC 2005  
Vassar MI





## 2020 Northwestern College Alumni Society Presidents Fund Grants

Twelve \$1,500 grants, named for the seven presidents of Northwestern College, were given to selected preseminary students based on their academic achievement, campus citizenship, potential for pastoral ministry, and excellence in a particular area.



### **John A. Braun Grant for Leadership**

**Ethan Carter**  
(St. Mark-Eau Claire WI)



### **John A. Braun Grant for English**

**Nathaniel Wranovsky**  
(St. Paul-Muskego WI)



### **Robert J. Voss Grant for Student Government**

**Mark Burger** (Shepherd of  
the Hills-Lansing MI)



### **Robert J. Voss Grant for Student Life**

**Joseph Behm** (Morning  
Star-Jackson WI)



### **Carleton Toppe Grant for GPA and Religion**

**Christopher Walther**  
(St. Mark-Watertown WI)



### **E.E. Kowalke Grant for Biblical Languages (Greek)**

**Malachi Mortensen**  
(St. Stephen-Beaver Dam WI)



### **E.E. Kowalke Grant for Biblical Languages (Hebrew)**

**Austin Claflin**  
(Salem-Sturgeon Bay WI)



### **August F. Ernst Grant for Confessional Languages (German)**

**Isaiah Zabell**  
(St. Paul-Green Bay WI)



### **August F. Ernst Grant for Confessional Languages (Latin)**

**Jacob Bitter**  
(St. John-Milwaukee)



### **August F. Ernst Grant for Confessional Languages (Latin and German)**

**Philip Balge**  
(St. Paul-New Ulm MN)



### **Lewis O. Thompson Grant for Worship and Music**

**Jordan Massiah**  
(Hope-Toronto ON)



### **Adam Martin Grant for Living Languages (Spanish)**

**Caleb Strutz**  
(Resurrection-Verona WI)



## 2020 Senior Awards



### **Via Veritas Vita**

**Moriah Hackbarth**  
(St. Paul-Lake Mills WI)



### **Service Award**

**Ryan Gurgel**  
(Christ Alone-Thiensville WI)



### **Leading Scholars - Pastoral Ministry**

**Silas Dose**  
(St. John-New Ulm MN)



**Robert Read**  
(Calvary-Dallas)



### **Leading Scholar - Educational Ministry**

**Elisabeth Hahm**  
(Prince of Peace-Fairport NY)



### **Fine Arts Award**

**Silas Dose**  
(St. John-New Ulm MN)



### **Student Body President Recognition**

**Duane Backhaus**  
(St. Paul-Tomah WI)



### **Brooks Scholarship**

**Silas Dose**  
(St. John-New Ulm MN)



### **Jerome Kruse Knight Awards for Athletic Achievement**

**Ian Paulsen** (St. Matthew-  
Oconomowoc WI)



**Jade St. Germaine**  
(St. Mark-Watertown WI)



### **UMAC Scholar-Athlete Leadership Awards**

**Caleb Koelpin**  
(Calvary-Dallas)



**Jade St. Germaine**  
(St. Mark-Watertown WI)



**Joycelyn  
Christmas-John**  
MLC 2015  
St. John's, Antigua



**Justin  
Gran**  
MLC 2010  
Cromwell CT



**Elizabeth  
Buss**  
DMLC 1955  
Appleton WI



**Noah  
Bater**  
MLC 2005  
Lansing MI





## Spring 2020 Highlights

Senior **Ian Paulsen** (St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI) became the 12th player in MLC men's basketball program history to score at least 1,000 career points. He also broke the school record with 153 career blocks. He was named Honorable Mention All-UMAC for the third straight season after leading the Knights in points, rebounds, assists, steals, and blocks per game for the third straight season.



**Emily Witkowski** (Grace-St. Joseph MI) was named Honorable Mention All-UMAC for the second straight season after leading MLC in points per game (13.3). The junior also ranked second on the Knights in rebounds per game (6.2) and steals (32).



**Caleb Christopher** (Faith-Sharpsburg GA) set a new MLC record with 36 career doubles. The senior outfielder set the record during the team's trip to Florida in which he hit six doubles in only eight games to help the Knights to a pair of wins.



**Elena Hoffman** (St. Martin-Watertown SD) made the most of the shortened spring season by smashing six home runs in the team's ten games. Hoffman's best performance came in a 12-6 win over SUNY Delhi on March 6 in Naples, Florida. Her three home runs and nine RBI in that game were the most in a single game by any NCAA softball player this season. The sophomore first baseman now has 14 career home runs, just one shy of the MLC career record.



**Linda Wendt**  
DMLC 1965  
Sleepy Eye MN



**Steven Schwartz**  
NWC 1975  
Rock Springs WI



**Coral Cady**  
DMLC 1985  
Onalaska WI



**Aaron Schoenike**  
NWC 1995  
Watertown WI





MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

## Same Jesus, Same Grace

Celebrating 25 Years  
of Ministerial Education at  
Martin Luther College

**August 21, 2020**

Dedication of Fisher of Men statue

**October 4, 2020**

Celebratory Homecoming Worship Service

**December 5-6, 2020**

Celebratory Christmas Concert

**May 15, 2021**

Celebratory Commencement Service

Watch for details on these special events and more!

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday  
and today and forever.*

Hebrews 13:8



## Campaign Paused



We're pausing in our active promotion of the Equipping Christian Witnesses campaign until the current uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus has subsided.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support.

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



**Pedro  
González**  
MLC 2015  
Albuquerque NM



**Kristin  
Buch**  
MLC 2000  
Waterloo WI



**David  
Priebe**  
NWC 1970  
Van Dyne WI



**Sheree  
Bradtke**  
DMLC 1980  
Merrimack NH



We thank God for an MLC Day unlike any other! This year we celebrated seniors, and, boy, did you respond! Here are the numbers:

**PRAY:** 1,700 visitors from 42 states and 10 countries shared 1,400+ prayers and personal messages of support for our 149 graduates.

**SHARE:** 21,000+ people checked our Facebook page, and 29,000+ watched our videos.

**GIVE:** With the help of a \$50,000 matching grant from a generous friend of MLC, donors gave \$105,235 to the Congregational Partner Grant Program matching fund. That's \$1,000 for 105 MLC students!

Check out more photos and messages at [mlcday.com/2020-graduates](http://mlcday.com/2020-graduates) and some senior thank-you videos at [mlc-wels.edu/go/senior-2020-videos](http://mlc-wels.edu/go/senior-2020-videos).



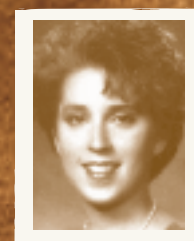
John  
Bonow II  
NWC 1990  
Milwaukee



Katie  
Salinas  
MLC 2000  
Stevensville MI



Andrew  
Schroeder  
MLC 2005  
Hemet CA



Jennifer  
Oswald  
DMLC 1990  
Wauwatosa WI



## Alumni Tours 2020-2021

### *If It Is the Lord's Will*

The Lord's words spoken through his servant James are as applicable now as ever: *Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."* (James 4:13-15)

These last few months have taught us all to say, "If it is the Lord's will" prior to publicizing our plans. So, if it is the Lord's will, the MLC Alumni Association has plans for two trips that will lead you to pause and ponder on God's almighty power as seen in his incredible creation.

### Introducing *O Canyonlands!* **November 7-17, 2020**

See the spectacular scenery of Arizona and Utah! Highlights include Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Antelope Canyon, Glen Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, Arches, Capitol Reef, and of course Canyonlands National Park. **Professor Emeritus John Paulsen** will provide geographical insights while **Pastor Steve Hein** of Prescott Valley, Arizona, will lead our daily devotions. Tour registration opened on May 15. [mlc-wels.edu/alumni/tours](http://mlc-wels.edu/alumni/tours)



### Reintroducing *O Canada!* **July 9-24, 2021**

We've rescheduled our trip to Vancouver, Victoria, Whistler, Revelstoke, Jasper, Banff, Waterton Lakes, and Glacier National Parks! **Professor Greg Diersen** will be our guide and **Professor Jim Pope**, our chaplain. A waitlist is forming, but since the tour is a year away, openings are likely. No payment is required until a confirmed spot is available. [mlc-wels.edu/alumni/tours](http://mlc-wels.edu/alumni/tours)



### London and Paris **Postponed to 2022**

MLC Alumni Tours are open to all WELS members and provide affordable, enjoyable, and educational opportunities to travel together with like-minded believers. If COVID-19 or similar concerns cause us to cancel a tour, we'll rebook for the following year and offer attendees a spot on that trip or a full refund. Contact Tour Director Steve Balza at 507.217.1731 or [alumni@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:alumni@mlc-wels.edu) if you'd like to be added to the mailing list.



**Brent  
Brutlag**  
NWC 1995  
Livonia MI



**Ella  
Vogt**  
DMLC 1980  
Bonesteel SD



**Stephen  
Berg**  
DMLC 1990  
New Berlin WI



**Patricia  
Thoma**  
DMLC 1970  
Wisconsin Rapids WI

## ***Fisher of Men Statue***

### **Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony**

**Friday, August 21  
Noon**

*(Orientation weekend)*

### ***Thank You! We Met Our Goal!***

Thank you to the hundreds of alumni and friends who generously funded the MLCAA *Fishers of Men* campaign! The endowed scholarship and the statue of Christ, the "Fisher of Men," are fully funded. We met our \$100K goal on June 30, just in time to celebrate MLC's 25th Anniversary!

We'll announce the first Alumni Scholarship recipients on Homecoming Saturday, October 3.



## **Welcome Back!**

Is your class, cast, or team celebrating a milestone year in 2021? Want to celebrate at MLC? Contact the Alumni Relations Office! We'll help you get your event on the calendar and off the ground. Upcoming reunions:

1965 DMLC	Sep 16, 2020	Milwaukee	Joyce Baer	262-548-0625	<a href="mailto:joycebaer@att.net">joycebaer@att.net</a>
1975 DMLC	Sep 18-20, 2020	MLC	Pat Stern	928-213-1475	<a href="mailto:flagsterns@gmail.com">flagsterns@gmail.com</a>
1961 DMLHS	Jul 9-10, 2021	MLC	Lauris Plath	602-677-9052	<a href="mailto:loplath@frontier.com">loplath@frontier.com</a>
1980 DMLC	Jul 13-14, 2021	MLC	Bill Pekrul	507-217-7999	<a href="mailto:pekrulwa@mlc-wels.edu">pekrulwa@mlc-wels.edu</a>
1980 MLPS	Jul 16-18, 2021	MLC	Gary Jeffers	623-910-8936	<a href="mailto:gjeffers@grace-in-action.com">gjeffers@grace-in-action.com</a>
1991 DMLC	Jul 23-24, 2021	MLC	Laura Balza	414-234-6242	<a href="mailto:laurabalza1@gmail.com">laurabalza1@gmail.com</a>
1970 DMLC	Sep 12-14, 2021	MLC	Dave Wendler	507-217-9765	<a href="mailto:dowendler@outlook.com">dowendler@outlook.com</a>
1981 DMLC	2021 TBD	MLC	Mike Pfeifer	920-676-2702	<a href="mailto:mike_pfeifer@beautifulsavior.com">mike_pfeifer@beautifulsavior.com</a>



**WORSHIP**



**TOURS**



**FRIENDS**



**Karen  
Schieber**  
DMLC 1975  
Mesa AZ



**Samuel  
Pappenfuss**  
MLC 2010  
Sebawaing MI



**Lois  
Trettien**  
DMLC 1945  
New Ulm MN



**Maurice  
Dermé**  
MLC 2005  
Des Moines WA



# MLC Governing Board Digest

By Vice President Scott Schmudlach DMLC '85



Back: **Andrew Van Weele** '04, **Thomas Walters** (new member), **Michael Woldt** WLS '81 (chair), **Dale Krause**, **Joe Archer** DMLC '78, **Dennis Klatt** WLS '88 (Minnesota District president). Middle: **Timothy Petermann**, **Michael Krueger** (advisory), **Paul Prange** WLS '88 (Ministerial Education administrator), **Geoffrey Kieta** WLS '93, **Mark Zarling** WLS '80 (MLC president), **Michael Lindemann** WLS '91. Front: **Michael Valteau**, **Daniel Leyrer** WLS '89, **Michael Seifert** WLS '03 (vice chair), **David Uhlhorn** '99, **Steven Rosenbaum** DMLC '86 (secretary), **Mark Wessel** WLS '86.

## September 26-27, 2019

**Calls:** Issued call to **Rev. Richard Gurgel** WLS '81 for president. (Call subsequently accepted.) Approved the request of a call list for an additional admissions counselor. (Call subsequently accepted by **Martin Santos** '17.)

**Costs:** Approved full-time undergraduate tuition, room and board increases of 3.5% for 2020-2021. Concurrently approved 5% increase in tuition assistance. Set part-time undergraduate tuition at \$375 per credit and increased graduate studies and continuing education tuition by 3.5%.



### NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

**Thomas Walters**, a member of Christ-Eden Prairie MN, is now serving the MLC Governing Board as an advisory member. Walters is a CPA who retired after a 40-year career at Grant Thornton, where he attained the level of partner while specializing in corporate auditing. He also served as chair of the WELS Accounting Oversight Committee for 13 years.

Walters thanks the Lord for this opportunity to use his experience in finance to serve the synod's college of ministry. "MLC's strong dedication to faithful interpretation and teaching of biblical principles has created a synod with one unified voice and a common and correct understanding of God's holy Word," he says. "The Lord is blessing our synod in many ways, and MLC is the generator of human capital to spread God's grace to all corners of the world."

## February 20-21, 2020

**Calls/Assignments:** Issued call to **David Biedenbender** DMLC '88 for admissions counselor. (Call subsequently accepted.) Approved recommendation that student teacher supervisors attend WELS Assignment Committee meetings as advisory members.

**Curriculum:** Approved removal of *MUS 4201 Lutheran Worship* and *EDU 3215 Teaching Religion* as required courses for the Staff Ministry Certification Program.

**Equipping Christian Witnesses:** Will seek permission from Synodical Council for the following:

- Increase cost for the Knight Center turf facility to \$5M, which includes parking and lighting.
- Pursue phase 2 engineering for the Knight Center.
- Explore alternate forms of funding for the Knight Center and Luther Heights, including, but not limited to, charitable gift annuities, corporate/ foundation sponsorship, subletting space to entities, and private investment development options.

**Financial Assistance:** Approved dissemination of MLC's *Philosophy of Financial Assistance and Student Indebtedness* at district conventions. (Conventions subsequently canceled due to COVID-19. See page 21 for brief summary of document.)

**Gratitude:** Extended appreciation to outgoing board members **Michael Seifert** and **Steven Rosenbaum** and to retiring President **Mark Zarling**.



**Jason Curia**  
MLC 2000  
Citrus Heights CA



**Tammy Schmitt**  
DMLC 1995  
Cedar Rapids IA



**Lee Loging**  
NWC 1965  
La Crosse WI



**John Berg**  
NWC 1975  
Milwaukee

# FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

## CELEBRATING MINISTRY ANNIVERSARIES



**Prof. Thomas Hunter**  
DMLC '75  
(45 years)



**Prof. Paul Bases**  
(40 years)



**Prof. William Pehrul**  
DMLC '80  
(40 years)



**Rev. Mark Zarling**  
WLS '80  
(40 years)



**Prof. Peter Baganz**  
DMLC '87  
(25 years)

## CONCLUDING SERVICE



**Jeffrey Beilke**  
2011-2020  
Maintenance  
Technician  
Retired



**Paul Koester** WLS '18  
2018-2020 Dorm  
Supervisor/Instructor  
Assigned as pastor  
to Bethlehem LC-  
Menomonee Falls WI

## JOINING FACULTY IN 2020-2021



**Rev. Richard Gurgel**  
WLS '86  
President



**Erin Keese** '16  
Lead Teacher at  
Early Childhood  
Learning Center



**Martín Santos** '17  
Admissions  
Counselor



**Jordan Uhlhorn**  
WLS '20  
Dorm Supervisor/  
Instructor

## IN MEMORIAM



**Professor Emeritus  
Fred Bartel**  
1927-2019



**Professor Emeritus  
Robert Krueger**  
1934-2020



**Professor Emeritus  
Gary Carmichael**  
1933-2020

[mlc-wels.edu/history/professor-obituaries](http://mlc-wels.edu/history/professor-obituaries)

## RETIRING



### **Adjunct Instructor Carlotta Ohm**

After 27 years of service at D/MLC, Mrs. Carlotta Ohm is retiring. Since 1993 she has served as an adjunct piano instructor.

Prior to her service at D/MLC, she served at St. Paul-Arlington NE (1978-1979) and Emanuel-West St. Paul MN (1979-1981).

Her colleague in the music department, **Marianne Vogel** DMLC '87, says: "God has blessed Carlotta with patience, warmth, and gentleness. She accepts you for your own abilities while simultaneously helping you grow. Her love for God, music, and family pours from her heart whenever you talk to her. She rearranges her life oftentimes in order to help those in need. She handles conflicts with Christian love, tact, and grace. Her students look to her as 'Mom,' and her friends are considered family. Her smile, quirky humor, and friendship will be missed here at MLC."

Carlotta and her husband, **Professor Ronald Ohm** DMLC '78, will remain in New Ulm. Carlotta will continue leading the handbell choir at St. Paul-New Ulm and will teach piano to grade school students. She's looking forward to lots of visits with her seven grandchildren and extra time for crafting.

To MLC students, Mrs. Ohm says: "You are the key to continuing the joy of singing praises to our God in the next generation. Encourage your students by example and in your teaching to faithfully use and treasure the opportunities to praise their Savior. 'It is good to give thanks to the LORD and to make music to your name, O LORD Most High' (Psalm 92:1).



**Carlotta Ohm**  
1993-2020  
Adjunct  
Piano Instructor  
Retired



**Mark Zarling**  
WLS '80  
2007-2020  
President  
Retired



**Jonathan Bunkowske**  
DMLC 1985  
Norfolk NE



**Howard Heup**  
NWC 1955  
Watertown WI



**Kathryn Dickson**  
MLC 2010  
Virginia Beach VA



**Robert Duehlmeyer, Jr.**  
NWC 1980  
Crete IL





JOIN US OCTOBER 2-4  
FOR  
*Homecoming*  
*2020!*

Midwest fall foliage should be at its finest as  
you make your way here to the hill.

- Cheer on our Knights volleyball team and the back-to-back UMAC Champion football squad
- Check out our annual Talent Show, Sprinter Fun Run, Family Fun Zone, and Alumni Reception
- Worship with us at Chapel of the Christ
- Watch for special 25-Year Anniversary events

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

