

September 2, 2020



Parents *Page*

E-NEWSLETTER

Your First Issue!



Welcome to the first issue of **MLC ParentsPage** 2020-2021.

The *ParentsPage* will appear in your box every 2-3 weeks at first, then taper off to once a month. Every issue will address issues related specifically to your role as parents of first-year MLC students.

Sending a kid to college for the first time is a major step—for the whole family. We understand that your student is not the only one who's excited and a little nervous, so we want to ease the transition for you.

One former first-year parent told us: *What a challenging year for my family with our daughter starting college! And I don't mean that in a negative way. We had to adjust to a new normal, and that isn't always easy. ParentsPage really helped me with that transition, with all the helpful advice, seeing all the activities that are available to my daughter, and catching a glimpse of my daughter in some of the pictures. I looked forward to the ParentsPage and read it faithfully.*

We hope you'll enjoy the *ParentsPage* too!

Oh! And please feel free to email a question or concern anytime! Take your pick: mlcinfo@mlc-wels.edu, admissions@mlc-wels.edu, or me (gaugerlf@mlc-wels.edu).

Blessings on the adventure!
Laurie

Be Honest: How Did It Go?

Your sons and daughters are officially college students! They did it—and so did you!



How did the weekend go? Were there tears?
Perfectly normal. No tears? Also normal.

Was there a snarky comment when you were just trying to hang up some shirts in the closet?
Perfectly normal.



Was there an awkward moment—like when your student started talking to his new roommate and gave you a look that said, "Could you please go to the car for a while?" Perfectly normal.

It's an emotional weekend, and when you add pandemic precautions to the equation, it can get even more emotional. Since we're human, we're going to respond in human ways—happy, sad, worried, giddy, shy. Rest assured: it all makes for a perfectly normal goodbye. [Moving-in pix](#)

The President's Prayer



Did you meet President Rich Gurgel at Orientation? Maybe he even carried a box in for you. That's servant-leadership, right?

Here's what he is praying for you:

Lord Jesus, thank you for these Christian parents who have not only nurtured in their sons and daughters a living, saving faith in you, but who have also been your tools to fire in their sons' and daughters' hearts a desire to prepare for public gospel ministry.

Be with them when they are sad or lonely because of a son or daughter no longer living near home. Fill them with the wisdom to learn new ways to be their children's encouragers as those children grow toward maturity in you, and keep

them faithful in holding their sons and daughters before you in prayer.

May they find joy and a sense of purpose, knowing that you have used them to prepare their children to make a difference in a dying world as witnesses of your gift of eternal life.

Your grace and love for us—and the world—make us bold to ask this of you, dear Jesus, and fill us with confidence that you will both hear and answer for our good. Amen.

Homesickness Alert

Here's a keeping-it-real alert:

During these first few weeks of school, you might hear these words: "I want to come home."

It's understandable, right? Going away is hard. Trying to meet new friends, sharing a room with someone, getting a grasp on college-level material—it's all hard.

And the necessary masking and social distancing might add more discomfort. They want to belong, to become closer to people, not more distanced!

And then there's the thought of home. Home is soooo comfortable . . . and there's that minimum-wage job they really don't mind . . . and they promise they'll help around the house . . . and you miss them too, right?

So you might start to think: Maybe they're just not ready for college yet . . . maybe they should go to the community college for a year . . . maybe . . .

Stop. Stop, stop, stop.

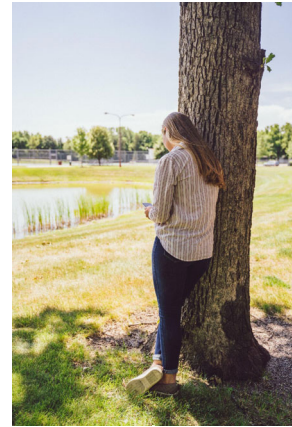
You know your child best, so we don't want to tell you what to do. But might we suggest that it's too early to let them give up?

So what do you say when your student utters those heartbreaking words? Just listen. Let them complain. Let them cry. Let them say it all. Let them transfer some of the burden to you. Let it break your heart too.

Instead of trying to argue away their feelings, be empathetic: "Yes, it's hard. I remember being homesick when I went to college. It's going to take a little while to get into the swing of things."

Then be supportive: "But I know you can do it. It was a journey to get this far and make this decision. You've won a lot of battles already. So maybe give it more time. God has made you a strong person! I believe in you. I'll keep praying for you. I know you can do this."

We'll talk more about homesickness in upcoming issues. For now, let's keep praying and just get through the first month!



Campus and COVID-19



Wearing masks . . . staying socially distanced . . . it feels unnatural, yes! But we're so proud of our student body! They know the precautions they're taking are a gesture of love and concern for their fellow students and for the community of New Ulm.

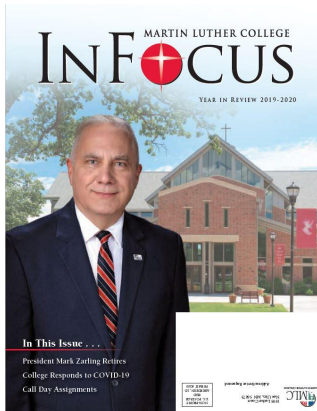
To read everything you need to know about campus precautions during the pandemic, go to the [MLC Coronavirus website](#). The website is updated frequently. There you can find . . .

- + KNIGHTS RETURN 2020 document
- + FAQs
- + Special messages from President Gurgel
- + Updates from last March to the present

We welcome your thoughts and concerns regarding our campus precautions because they help us serve you better. You may submit them through [this form](#).

As we start this unique fall semester, consider sending a message of encouragement to our students, faculty, or staff [online](#). Thank you, and please keep our ministry in your prayers.

Let's Stay in Touch



[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Website](#)

[InFocus](#) magazine

[MLC SportsPage](#) (with special features this semester)

[Alumni Messenger](#) (if you're a grad too!)

[KnightWatch Weekly](#) (for your high school students still at home)

A Parent's Prayer for the Empty Chair

Dear Lord, we know that you are with our children at MLC.

We know that you will guide them, protect them, bless them.
But we ask anyway.

Please give them the confidence to meet new people and new challenges with a smile. Give them the wisdom to make sensible decisions. Give them the energy and motivation to study hard. Give them a heart that sees the needs of others and is more apt to be kind than cool.

And bless us too. As we look at the empty chairs at our kitchen tables, give us the strength and wisdom to love our children by gently letting them go . . . and letting them *grow*—into independent adults who will find their own place in the great interdependent web of family, church, and community.

Amen.



From the Portal

Club and team meetings. Jobs and scholarships. Convocations and seminars. Cafeteria and library news. Scheduling and financial aid deadlines—it's all on the MLC Portal, our digital bulletin board.

In every *ParentsPage* issue, we'll share some Portal highlights with you too. This is *not* so you can remind your student to attend a meeting or sign up for their practice rooms. That's their responsibility now! This is just so you get a feel



for what's been going on here at your student's home away from home!

- **Worship news:**
- **Morning chapel:** Priority seating in the Chapel is by residence hall. See list below. All others are encouraged to worship in the auditorium or by live-stream in their dorm rooms.
- Monday: Augustana
- Tuesday: Concord
- Wednesday: Summit
- Thursday: Centennial
- Friday: Faculty/Staff/Walk-ins
- **Evening chapel:** All are invited to the Chapel for evening worship M-F, 7:15-7:30. Auditorium seating is available for those who cannot fit into the chapel, and worship will be live-streamed for those who wish to worship in their dorm rooms.
- **Compline:** Only chapel seating will be available for the Monday 10 pm Compline services. No auditorium seating. Service will also be live-streamed.
- **Weekend worship:** Because of restrictions on attendance at our local congregations, MLC will hold worship services on Saturday evenings (7 pm) and Sunday mornings (9:30 and 11 am). Students should reserve their seats.
- **#CampusClear:** Students should complete the #CampusClear daily health monitoring each day by noon before beginning any activities. Students not cleared because of symptoms should fill out the "Contact Me" form, and the campus nurse will contact them. If a student needs immediate medical attention, they should call their medical provider or dial 9-1-1.
- **Battle of the Bags:** The MLC Event Team is sponsoring a cornhole tournament Saturday-Sunday, September 5-6. Bracket has room for 96 2-player teams. Sign up online.
- **Women's basketball:** Informational meeting August 26.
- **Softball:** Informational meeting August 31.
- **Build your "teacher library":** Children's books have been donated to MLC by a local school that closed. Come to the service desk and ask for your free bag of books. One per person.
- **Minnesota State Grant recipients:** To receive this grant, students must be enrolled for at least 15 credits.
- **Seminar for new education/staff ministry students:** New education/staff ministry majors are required to watch the Moodle course on the education program at MLC: academic advising, clinical experiences, etc.
- **Spamalot - Socially Distant Concert-ish Version:** Informational meeting August 25 and 26. Auditions August 30-31. Performances October 23-25.
- **Bad grades? You could lose your aid:** Lack of satisfactory academic progress has implications for financial aid. Grades will be reviewed at midterm.
- **Writing Center:** The MLC Writing Center opens September 7. Writing coaches are available for walk-in appointments Sunday-Thursday, 8-10 pm. Free.
- **ASC seeking tutors and proctor:** The MLC Academic Success Center is hiring two Developmental Math tutors and one proctor.
- **You're a member at Vogel Fieldhouse:** MLC students are members at this rec center right down the hill. Currently, the indoor pool is closed for construction, but the track, racquetball courts, and aerobic machines are available. And MLC's Wellness Team will pay for students' fitness classes (up to \$200/quarter). (New Ulm Park & Rec reminds students to bring their own equipment and to adhere to the health screening and sanitation protocols at the Vogel facilities.)
- **International opportunities:**
 - Students considering study abroad are urged to stop into the International Services Office for information. Freshman year is the best time to start planning.
 - Our partner university in Berlin, Freie Universitat, is offering a [free online lecture series](#) about their academic course offerings.

- **PCA needed:** Personal Care Assistant needed for a student at St. John-Redwood Falls. Get experience, notch IFE hours, and earn money as well.
- **Homecoming shirt designs:** Senate is seeking shirt designs on the theme "Family Game Knight."
- **Practice room signups:** Piano, organ, instrumental, and vocal students should sign up for practice rooms under 'Tools' on the Portal.
- **Drop/Add period:** Ends Friday, September 4, 4 pm.
- **Verify your Portal directory information:** August 28. We especially need a current cell phone number for safety reasons.
- [Scholarships.](#)
- [Employment Opportunities.](#)

The Gallery Is Open



Want a peek at worship and moving-in photos? Check out our online [gallery](#).

(Come back often. More pix are added all the time!)

Mark the Date



Homecoming Weekend (Virtual)
Fri-Sun/Oct 2-4

Sprinter Fun Run (Worldwide)
Sat/Oct 3

Wind Symphony Concert (Streamed)
Sun/Oct 4

Musical: *Spamalot* (Socially Distant Concert-ish Version)
Fri-Sun/Oct 23-25

Final Day of On-Campus Classes
Wed/Nov 25

Thanksgiving Break
Thu-Fri/Nov 26-29

Distance Learning (At Home)
Mon/Nov 30 - Thu/Dec 10

Christmas Break
Fri/Dec 11 - Tue/Jan 5

Classes Resume (On Campus)

Wed/Jan 6

[All Events](#)

Parents *UKnighted*



Contact us today:

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