

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE INFOCUS

SPRING 2021



In This Issue . . .

A Wonderful Beginning . . .

A Glimpse of the Future

New Fieldhouse Funded

Chapel of the Christ -

A Retrospective

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1995 Luther Court
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WRITER/EDITOR
Laurie Gauger DMLC '87

COPY EDITOR
Heidi Schoof DMLC '86

STUDENT ASSISTANT
Cameron Schroeder '22

MLC PHOTOGRAPHY TEAM*

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
Lime Valley Advertising, Inc.
Leah Matzke

Office of Mission Advancement

VICE PRESIDENT
Michael Otterstatter WLS '94

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR
William Pekrul DMLC '80

ALUMNI DIRECTOR
Steve Balza DMLC '93

College Administration

PRESIDENT
Rich Gurgel WLS '86

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ADVISORY:

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Dennis Klatt WLS '88
Michael Krueger
Paul Prange WLS '88
Duane Rodewald WLS '89
Mark Schroeder WLS '81
Thomas Walters

*Professor William Pekrul DMLC '80,
Levi Steljes '22, Benjamin Hahm '23,
Haley Martin '24, Madison Rich '22,
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A WONDERFUL BEGINNING . . .

A WONDERFUL *Beginning*



In this issue of *InFocus*, you'll read about a leap forward in MLC's EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES campaign. Eighteen months of generous gifts from God's people around our synod laid a financial foundation for what had been called the Knight Center.

Now, God has graciously moved the heart of a generous donor to make a transformational gift that enabled us to move forward! The building will be called the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse. You'll see how that building will be a blessing to our campus and our community on pages 10-11.

It's a wonderful beginning! But we pray it's not the end. We pray it's simply a glimpse of the future.

In this *InFocus* you'll also find information about the other facility that is part of pillar 3 of EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES, a new residence hall. We pray that God might speed the day when we can announce the groundbreaking of the facility we've been calling Luther Heights. See pages 12-13.

That too would be part of this wonderful beginning! But may that not be the end!

Even with the completion of both fieldhouse and residence hall, we still have sufficient reason to continue to invest in our college of ministry. Why? Because of pillar 1 of EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES: For the sake of the gospel ministry, we're seeking to increase MLC's enrollment to 800, 900, or even 1,000 undergraduate students. Having a well-equipped and attractive campus plays no small role in achieving that goal.

Proposed residence hall



Betty Kohn Fieldhouse

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

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



On the cover:

The Chapel of the Christ,
dedicated in 2010.

The alumni photos at the bottom of the pages are from the anniversary classes of MLC, NWC, and DMLC: '41, '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, '01, '06, '11, and '16. Thanks to Alumni Director Steve Balza DMLC '93, who provided this random selection of alumni.

A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

By President Rich Gurgel NWC '81, WLS '86

Facilities Support Recruitment

Certainly, we don't want to become Field of Dreams Lutheran College by making our mantra "If we build it, they will come!" But as we recruit students in the 21st century, we must grasp this reality: The "you can be anything" world in which future students have grown up means they're often wrestling with many different college and vocation possibilities.

Yes, many prospective MLC students have known since kindergarten that they wanted to pursue public ministry. As small children they gathered their younger siblings for impromptu classes or preached to their stuffed animals. It's a great gift of God to have a significant percentage of our student body arrive on campus so highly committed to public ministry. And, yes, many of them would attend MLC whether or not our campus was well-equipped or attractive.

But we'd be shortsighted to plan for the future with only those students in mind. If you talked with current pastors, teachers, and staff ministers, you'd find many who arrived at the MLC campus with significant uncertainties. Several other educational and vocational paths appealed to them. It was only after they arrived on campus, perhaps even several semesters later, that they resolved to continue on toward gospel ministry.

Today we seem to see a higher percentage of such "uncertain about ministry" prospective MLC students. We certainly celebrate the many good and godly vocations in which believers can serve their Savior besides the public ministry. And we're thankful for the schools (especially our sister schools, Wisconsin Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran College) that train them for those vocations. But we also want to make every effort to make MLC an appealing option. We're convinced that once they're here, God may allow them to grow in their conviction to continue preparing for the public ministry.

An attractive and well-equipped campus can be a critical element in an uncertain student's decision to give MLC a try.

STUDENT
RECRUITMENT



900-1,000
STUDENTS

Eager to Train
for Gospel Ministry

STUDENT
FINANCIAL AID



Congregational
Partner Grant
Matching Fund

\$3-5 M

STUDENT
FACILITIES



Luther Heights
Residence Hall
\$12 M
Athletic Center
FUNDED!

An attractive and well-equipped campus can be a critical element in an uncertain student's decision to give MLC a try.

Once they're here, God may allow them to grow in their conviction to continue preparing for the public ministry.



Admissions Counselor Joel Thomford gives a tour to a prospective student and her mother.



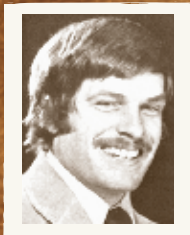
Harmon
Butler Jr.
DMLC 1991
Bancroft MI



William
Taylor Jr.
MLC 2011
Forest Hill MD



Eunice
Sauer
DMLC 1946
New Ulm MN



Orville
Breikreutz
DMLC 1976
Redwood Falls MN



A GLIMPSE OF THE *Future*

With that in mind, back in 2018, MLC developed a campus master plan in partnership with students, faculty, staff, and people around our synod. The Betty Kohn Fieldhouse and the residence hall we're calling Luther Heights are two pieces of that master plan. What else might be part of that glimpse of the future?

MUSIC AND THE ARTS: As a confessional Lutheran church body, we delight in how vocal and instrumental music can sing the gospel into our hearts.

Our master plan envisions expanding our music facilities, first by completing the long-unfinished lower level of the *Chapel of the Christ*. What a blessing our chapel has been since it was

built in 2010. To make the best use of this entire facility, we'd construct well-equipped rehearsal facilities in the lower level. There the hundreds of students who participate in our vocal ensembles can learn to treasure first-hand our Lutheran, gospel-focused musical heritage. What a blessing that would be for our churches and schools.

Our master plan also calls for updating and expanding both our *Music Center* and *Music Hall*. We can show our commitment to excellence in instrumental music by providing more spacious rehearsal space for ensembles like our Wind Symphony and upgrading individual practice facilities for students of organ, piano, and other instruments.

We also dream of the day when we can add additional space to our Music Hall for what we have at times called the Institute for Liturgical Arts. Such an Institute could help us as a synod gain a deeper appreciation for how the visual arts—paintings and murals, sculpture and glass—also proclaim the gospel.

Now, imagine all of that work is completed. You're walking along on a campus tour with a prospective student with strong gifts in music and the arts. That student is unsure whether MLC and the public ministry is for them, but you notice their eyes lighting up. It dawns on them that their church body really does value the gifts God has given them, and they begin to see how God might enrich the public ministry of our church as they put their gifts to work!

We plan to construct rehearsal spaces in the basement of *Chapel of the Christ*.

Expanded music and athletic facilities can make an impression on prospective students.

It dawns on them that their church body really does value the gifts God has given them, and they begin to see how God might enrich the public ministry of our church as they put their gifts to work!



Donald Hahnke
DMLC 1971
New Ulm MN



Suzanne Found
DMLC 1966
Phoenix



Leland Wurster
NWC 1946
Kendall WI



Taylor Swanson
MLC 2016
Vancouver WA



ATHLETICS: Now picture another prospective MLC student. This student is also unsure about MLC or the public ministry. But this they do know: They enjoyed sports in high school, and they would love to participate in intercollegiate and intramural sports in college. What would you show them on MLC's campus? What would spark a growing conviction in their hearts that their WELS College of Ministry values their athletic gifts and sees them as a means to develop leaders for gospel ministry?

Yes, you'd take them to the **Betty Kohn Fieldhouse**. There they'd picture themselves practicing with athletic teams, enjoying a PE class, or having fun in intramurals year-round.

Then you'd take them to another facility, our new **physical education/recreation center**. As part of our campus master plan, this would be built in what was once the large empty field next to the Luther Student Center, and it would include

four basketball courts; a 200-meter indoor track; and multiple fellowship, recreation, and workout spaces for students, whether they play an interscholastic sport or not.

Why does our master plan envision this particular facility? Understand that our current gymnasium, built in 1968, has only one competition court and another auxiliary court on its stage. It's served our campus well for 50 years, but much has changed in a half century. We now offer a broader range of interscholastic sports and intramurals, and we struggle to find sufficient space for all our indoor athletic teams, not to mention a strong intramural program. And what about open gym times for the students to have fun with friends when their schedules allow? Right now, that's simply not possible.

Were this PE/rec center to be built, we could spark the idea in that prospective student's mind that MLC has been planning for a student just like them! Suddenly they begin to understand that MLC understands that training people for ministry involves training the whole person—including those gifts and interests that are especially important to them at this time in their life.

From Dreams to Realities

Such are the dreams included in MLC's campus master plan. All of those dreams have a singular theme: to provide a well-equipped and inviting campus that can help us attract and hold on to even more students who aren't quite sure about public ministry yet.

So, as you read in this issue about the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse and the residence hall we're calling Luther Heights, we ask two things! Pray that that those facilities might be just a beginning for our campus. And then ponder how God can use you to turn master-plan-dreams into MLC-campus-realities!



The Betty Kohn Fieldhouse will be ready for student use in early 2022. We hope construction of the new residence hall will not be far behind.

All of the dreams in MLC's campus master plan have a singular theme: to provide a well-equipped and inviting campus that can help us attract and hold on to even more students who aren't quite sure about public ministry yet.

Facilities Matter

Two recent additions here on the hill—the Chapel of the Christ (2010) and the Early Childhood Learning Center (2014)—have impacted student life and ministry training to an incredible degree. See how these facilities have enriched our campus on *pages 16-21*.



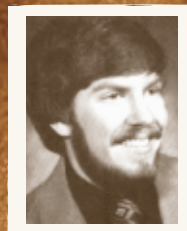
Paul Alliet
NWC 1971
Minneapolis



Carol Friebe
DMLC 1966
Phillipsburg KS



Logan Block
MLC 2006
Cedar Creek AZ



Steven Grosinske
DMLC 1981
Baraboo WI

here on the

hill

Congratulations to MLC Midyear Graduates

Twenty-two students finished their degree programs and earned their diplomas in December 2020. They will walk in the May 2021 commencement ceremony.

Ashley Andrus (Immanuel-Tyler MN)
Matthew Baehman (Trinity-Neenah WI)
Ethan Eisenmann (St. Peter-Appleton WI)
Aaron Fischer (Peace-Wilmot WI)
Kristina Gonzales (St. Jacobi-Mobridge SD)
Brad Hengeveld (St. Paul-Lomira WI)
Brittany Jensen (St. Mark-Watertown WI)
Paul Kramer (St. Peter-Appleton WI)
Justus Kupsky (Grace-Manitowoc WI)
Christian Monday (Beautiful Savior-Cincinnati)
Gabriel Plocher (St. John-Pardeeville WI)
Moriah Poehlman (St. John-Maribel WI)
Bradley Price (St. John-New Ulm MN)
Kellie Prins (Holy Trinity-Wyoming MI)
Alexander Quist (St. Peter-Saint Peter MN)
Gary Schmid (Good Shepherd-West Allis WI)
Alexandria Schmidt (St. Paul-New Ulm MN)

Annalisa Schuette (St. John-Manitowoc WI)
Hannah Steinke (Salem-Loretto MN)
Abigail Turman (Good Shepherd-Omaha)
Brooke Wasser (Mount Olive-Appleton WI)
Amy Weiglein (St. Paul-Brownsville WI)

Four assignments were issued:

- 1 Ella Loersch '20 (Onalaska WI) to St. John LS-Peshtigo WI:
gr 3-5 (six-month call)
- 2 Abby Plocher '20 (New Ulm MN) to St. Croix LA:
English Language Arts (six-month call)
- 3 Gabriel Plocher '20 (Vassar MI) to St. John LS-Red Wing MN:
gr 3-5 (six-month call)
- 4 Brent Schmidt '20 (Casa Grande AZ) to Divine Savior
Academy (Santa Rita Ranch)-Liberty TX: gr 4-5

WELCOMING PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND PARENTS NOW!

- **Choose a day** that works for you.
- **Tour campus** safely.
- **Discuss your opportunities** with admissions counselors.



Mark
Stein
Director



Lori
Unke



Dave
Biedenbender



Ted
Klug



Joel
Thomford



Martín
Santos

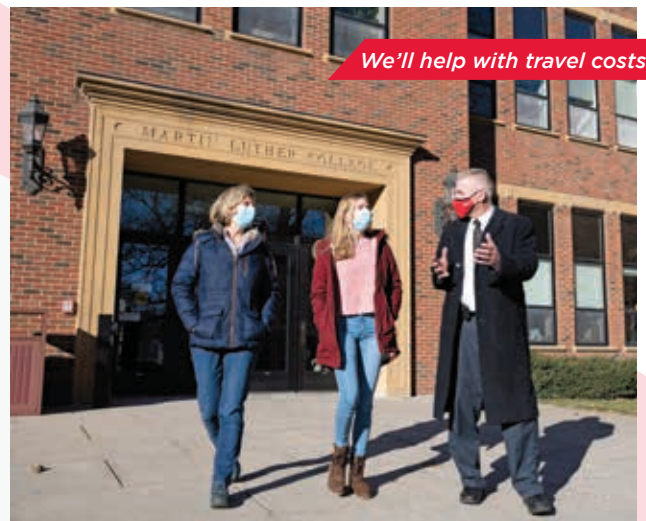
We'll set up your visit! Call **507.233.9133**
or visit [mlc-wels.edu/admissions/
campus-visits](https://mlc-wels.edu/admissions/campus-visits)



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE



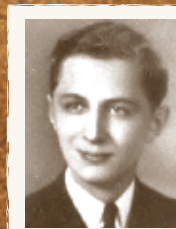
One Mission - Endless Opportunities



Dieter
Mueller
NWC 1961
Edmonton, Alberta



Mary
Otte
MLC 1996
Ulysses NE



Winfred
Koelpin
NWC 1941
Caledonia WI



Rachel
Myers
MLC 2006
Watertown SD

Sports in Session

This spring, 14 Knights athletic teams are practicing: men's and women's basketball, tennis, soccer, golf, and track; softball; baseball; football; and volleyball.

Some practices take place off campus, and some don't finish up until 11 pm. In addition, all athletes are tested for COVID-19 three times a week, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

"While we are dealing with a lot of new things this spring, one thing remains the same," says Athletic Director Jim Unke. "Our kids are willing to do just about anything for the opportunity to play intercollegiate sports. As coaches and administrators, we want to do whatever we can to give them that opportunity."



My Song Is Love Unknown is MLC's newest devotion book created for you.

These eight Holy Week devotions, scheduled for March 28-April 4, lead us deeper into the truths of Jesus' love for us through the poetry, imagery, and music of Lent and Easter hymns. Links in the devotions will allow you to hear and watch the hymns performed for you by MLC College Choir, Chorale, Women's Choir, Männerchor, Wind Symphony, Hosanna Ringers, and Professor Craig Hirschmann on the organ. Churches may also integrate the video recordings into Holy Week worship services.

Because of the hymn recordings, we are offering this series *online only*, but in several formats:

- Read them online.
- Download the series as a PDF.
- Listen to podcasts online.
- Request that we send them to your personal email on a daily basis, March 28-April 4.

Find all options at mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions. For future devotionals, we will once again offer printed booklets.

Call for *Thalassa* Submissions

Martin Luther College has now begun accepting submissions for the 15th annual **Thalassa Prize**. This \$1,000 prize is awarded to the best photo-and-essay submission from an MLC student or graduate who has served in an international ministry.

DEADLINE: April 30, 2021

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

mlc-wels.edu/thalassa

ALL PAST WINNERS:

mlc-wels.edu/Thalassa

2019 WINNER:

Micah Otto, MLC '19
Southeast Asia

*"The God She Thought
She Knew"*



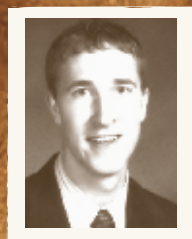
Daniel Metzger
NWC 1976
Grafton WI



Sara Kassulke
MLC 2001
Inver Grove Heights MN



Roy Schlavensky
DMLC 1961
Kenosha WI



Trevor Wolter
MLC 2006
Hustisford WI



Ministry Preparation During a PANDEMIC

Their masks could not hide their smiles as students came back to campus for in-person instruction in January.

They'd been at home since October 25, but a break from campus was not a break from ministry training. They finished their first-semester courses online, and many of them got busy with ministry in their congregations.



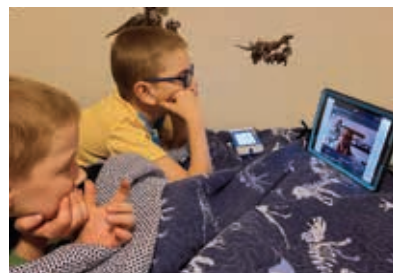
Noah Melso (*Bethany-Manitowoc WI*) found out multiple organists at his church were quarantined over Christmas. So he sprang into action. He had precious little time to prepare, but when the last chord had been played on Christmas Day, he had accompanied six services in less than 48 hours!

"My organ instructor, Prof. Hirschmann, is very talented and has taught me so much!" Noah said. "My favorite part about the organ is the ability to praise God with my gifts and to help others praise him as well."



Elementary education major **Alyssa Heckendorf** (*Light of the Valleys-Reno NV*) made daily videos using the Advent devotions created by MLC faculty, staff, and students called *The Jesse Tree*. The result? Kids had a fun new opportunity to prepare their hearts for the Christ Child and engage in the Christmas story. (Pictured top right: Children watching devotion.)

"Ministry can take different forms," Alyssa said. "It's all about sharing the news that God loved us enough to send his Son in the form of a baby in a manger. Sharing this life-saving story with families everywhere was such a cool experience."



Mikayla Kiedrowski (*St. Lucas-Milwaukee*) helped wrap presents for her school's toy drive. **Lexi Dabe** (*Beautiful Savior-Cincinnati*) tutored students, taught virtual Sunday school, and made outreach calls. **Mollie Hinz** (*Amazing Love-Frankfort IL*, pictured right and below) did some teaching in a classroom where she had once been a student.



These stories were collected by **Cameron Schroeder** (*St. Paul-Onalaska WI*), student editor of *KnightWatch Weekly*, our recruitment newsletter. "So many students sent me messages when I asked how they'd used their time over our long break. I was overjoyed to read about all the ways they served God in their schools, churches, and communities.

"At MLC," he continued, "we're constantly reminded of the many reasons we have to praise God with our lives. That's what motivates us to serve, and that's what made our return to campus so sweet. It's a celebration of our current gospel mission and continuing preparation for our ministries to come!"



Craig Huska
NWC 1971
Elkton SD



Karim Yaghleji
MLC 2016
Joplin MO



Joshua Sternhagen
MLC 1996
New Orleans



Shirley Modless
DMLC 1971
Whiteriver AZ

ALLEVIATING STRESS with Student Events



The MLC Event Team:

Mark Burger (Shepherd of the Hills-Lansing MI), **Maddy Mielke** (Crown of Life-West St. Paul MN), **Phil Balge** (St. Paul-New Ulm MN), **Caleb Lash** (First-Racine WI), **Joey Behm** (Morning Star-Jackson WI), **Kate Aswege** (Mt. Olive-St. Paul), **Josh Wordell** (Bethany-Kenosha WI), **Noah Uhlenbrauck** (St. Peter-Appleton WI), **Seth Koelpin** (Calvary-Dallas), **Brooke Flunker** (St. Paul-Winneconne WI)



MLC Events Coordinator **Michelle Gartner**, DMLC '93 remembers the word she used most when the pandemic hit last March: "Canceled." Concerts, conferences, games, gatherings—in-person instruction itself—canceled.

With more cancelations in view for this school year, we might expect her to disband her Event Team. Instead, she doubled it (*pictured*). Then she redirected their energies to internal student events—the kind that downgrade stress and lift morale.

"Even before the pandemic," Michelle says, "we were aware that college-age young people's anxiety and stress levels are at an all-time high. Adding the pandemic only increases that stress and anxiety exponentially."

Her efforts began on Day 1. "As we faced a new school year," she says, "how would students get to know each other and their professors while maintaining proper distancing?"

Collaborating at times with Student Senate and the Student Life Office, the Event Team created activities for the year that mitigated these challenges. "We're careful to follow state protocols and safety guidelines," Michelle says, "and we've really enjoyed stretching our creativity to come up with activities that are fun and safe."

A beautiful fall allowed for outdoor events like a Bags (Cornhole) Tournament and Pedal with the President. February saw a traditional Winter Carnival with a few safety tweaks. And this spring, they'll plan the groundbreaking of the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse.

The team is Michelle's classroom as she teaches the members ministry skills: administration, communication, hospitality, and humble service. "Events like these have a very direct application to the students' professional lives after college," she says. "My prayer is that when these students enter their ministries, they'll have the tools to engage students, parents, and the community through events at their church or school."

Sledding
during Winter
Carnival



David Kluge
NWC 1961
Menasha WI



Wendy Fischer
MLC 2001
Fremont WI



Joseph Dietrich
NWC 1981
Saginaw MI



Susan Carl
DMLC 1976
Janesville WI



Announcing the



Thanks to a generous donor, we will break ground on a new athletic center April 10!

An athletic center has been a priority in our Equipping Christian Witnesses campaign. We're grateful for the many gifts we received from individuals, congregations, and schools—gifts that laid a generous financial foundation for facilities.

Recently, God moved the heart of a very generous donor to provide a transformational gift that will allow construction of the athletic center to commence.

Named the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse, this 36,000-square-foot indoor turfed facility will be located at the MLC Athletic Field Complex west of the main campus, near the soccer and baseball fields. Featuring large practice areas, baseball/softball batting cages, golf simulators, and locker rooms, it will answer many of the pressing needs of today and help us offer expanded opportunities tomorrow.

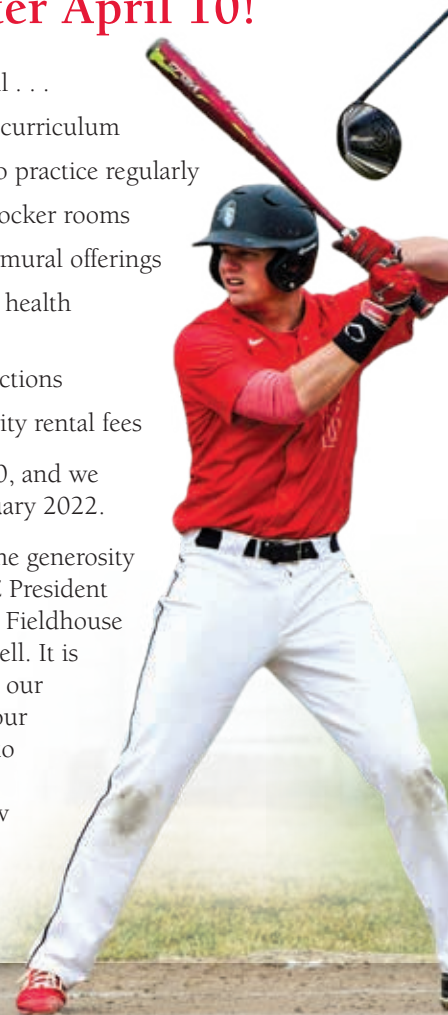


Specifically, the fieldhouse will . . .

- Support a year-round PE curriculum
- Enable all spring sports to practice regularly
- Provide additional team locker rooms
- Allow for additional intramural offerings
- Provide opportunities for health and wellness
- Create community connections
- Decrease off-campus facility rental fees

We will break ground April 10, and we anticipate student use by January 2022.

"We are thankful to God for the generosity of so many people," said MLC President Rich Gurgel. "The Betty Kohn Fieldhouse will serve our student body well. It is also a significant beginning to our long-range plans for making our campus even more attractive to prospective students. And we look forward to exploring how the fieldhouse can serve the recreation needs of the New Ulm community as well."



Betty Kohn Fieldhouse

The **EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES** campaign continues!

We invite you to . . .

Partner with us in **STUDENT RECRUITMENT**

Help us increase **FINANCIAL AID**

Support our efforts to enhance **FACILITIES**,
specifically to build a new residence hall

Learn more and donate at
mlc-wels.edu/campaign

Or text **CAMPAIGN** to 507.233.4344



Campus Living Then and Now

When students came to DMLC many decades ago, living conditions at college were just like home: shared bedrooms, shared bathrooms, no air conditioning.

Today's students are not looking for anything fancy, but they are accustomed to air conditioning and a little more privacy and personal space.

An updated residence hall will make the daily lives of our students more comfortable, ease the transition of new students from home to college, and perhaps sway undecided students to give MLC a try.



"A conversation over a shared love of the caf's guacamole can start off a great friendship, but knowing that someday we'll all be coworkers

in Christ makes for deeper relationships. MLC is different. Not only is it an awesome place for making friends, but it's also a phenomenal place to strengthen our relationship with our best friend forever, Jesus."

Julia Schibbelhut '21
St. Paul-Onalaska WI

Residence Hall

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



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

Summertime Possibilities

We're excited about the summertime possibilities that a new residence hall opens up for us.

During the hot summer months, the comfortable accommodations of this facility—with its air-conditioning and semi-private bathrooms—would allow us to comfortably host larger events for the greater synod:

- OWLS National Rally
- WELS Worship Conference
- LWMS Convention
- Minnesota District Convention
- WELS Biennial Convention

We would also be wonderfully positioned to host youth camps, which not only develop the God-given gifts of our children and young people, but also serve as a natural recruitment arm.

- Athletic Camps
- Music Camps
- STEM Camps

We're excited about the possibilities!

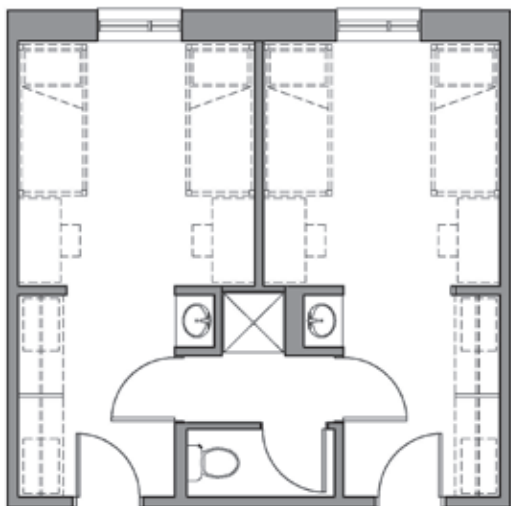
A **STUDY LOUNGE** on each floor can be used for Bible studies, small meetings, and study projects—all by the light of a gas fireplace!

Two all-glass, sunlit **SKYLINE STUDIES** on each floor will provide panoramic views of New Ulm's picturesque river valley. These study spaces will be open to all students, not only those who live in this hall, for coursework and collaboration.



A large **GATHERING SPACE** inside the entrance, with coffee and other amenities, will provide much-needed social space for students, family, and other visitors.

A **PATIO** will take advantage of the beautiful view of New Ulm from Summit Avenue.



Four students will live in each two-bedroom **SUITE**. Each room will have two beds, two desks, two closets, and one sink. The four students will share the bathroom and shower.

Please GIVE:

- Online: mlc-wels.edu/donate
- By phone: 507.354.8221 ext 295
- By text: Text CAMPAIGN to 507.223.4344

Luther Heights Residence Hall

152 beds
42,678 square feet
4 floors

ALL LEVELS

4-Bed Suites
Study Lounge
2 Skyline Studies
Large energy-efficient windows

MAIN LEVEL

Gathering space for families and visitors
Office
Director's apartment

LOWER LEVEL

Kitchen
Exercise Room
Restroom / Locker Room
Laundry
Outdoor Patio

GREEN SPACE

153 PARKING SPACES

Athletics at MLC

For the coaches' full responses, go to mlc-wels.edu/go/coach-survey.

A Word from Our Coaches

At MLC, athletics aren't just fun and games. They're an important ingredient in ministry training. We asked our coaches to tell us about the "hidden curriculum" of athletics—the bigger lessons they're teaching their athletes—and how these lessons translate to life and to ministry. They had a lot to say! Here are a few excerpts.



Translating Athletics to Ministry: Athletics provide a tremendous platform for ministry training. The shared passion that players and coaches have for the game allows us to take our experiences as a team and discuss how those experiences can—to a degree—translate into a ministry setting. How does a called worker handle success and failure? What is the importance of hard work and preparation in ministry? What does effective leadership and followership look like as a called worker? These are just a few of

the many topics that athletics allow us to discuss with our student-athletes in intentional, concrete ways.

Coach Greg Holzhuter
(men's basketball)

Developing Deep Relationships:

I tell my players that I have three goals for the team. The first is relationships, the second is working and playing to the best of your ability, and the third is winning games. Finally, the friendships and relationships that these young women make during their college years, and in a special way as members of a competitive soccer team that works together and supports one another, are something that they will treasure and find useful and satisfying for many, many years.



Coach Jeff Schone
(women's soccer)

Being All In: I think players need to be *all in*. You have to be mentally and physically present when you're strength training, practicing your skills, or in the competition itself. No distractions. It's the same with ministry. Our called workers have to be *all in*. This is not a 9-5 job. What our students are training for is a calling to serve the Lord by serving families. This is too important a mission to cut corners or give partial effort. And the cool thing is to watch God bless his people doing his mission.



Managing Time: We teach our athletes to understand there are 168 hours in a week. This will not change. So what does this mean for them? Manage your time. That starts with a plan, so we talk about how many hours they're planning on sleeping, eating, attending class, doing homework, growing spiritually, spending time with friends, practicing and playing softball/golf, maintaining a part-time job perhaps, and anything else that's on their plate. Student athletes are busy people. Called workers are busy people. Managing your time helps with avoiding procrastination and stress. I want my golfers and softball players to take charge of their schedule.

Coach Matt Pearson
(softball, men's golf)



David Schweppe
DMLC 1966
Zambia, Africa



Mariel Grimm
MLC 2006
Santiago,
Dominican Republic



Stephen Melso
NWC 1991
Neenah WI



Stacey Walker
MLC 1996
Tucson AZ



Serving One Another: The MLC football goals are “Serve. Trust. Win!” And they tie right into ministry. You need to serve one another in Christian love now and in ministry. You need to trust your teammates on the football field and in the ministry field. And you need to win every day! Win the play, win the rep, win the game! Win the math lesson, win the recess, win the day!

Coach Mark Stein
(football)



Embracing Different Roles: Teamwork creates the authentic opportunity to experience the value of discussing concerns face to face, valuing differences to make use of each other’s strengths, forgiveness, unselfishness, the importance of supporting each other, and embracing differing roles on a team rather than just discussing these skills or attitudes as hypotheticals in a classroom.

Leading like Christ: Being a leader is about selflessness not about power, ego, or influence. Christ was a servant; imitate him. Seniors especially need to be doing the little things: carrying the bags, helping with equipment. This is an important lesson for ministry too.

Coach Becky Cox
(volleyball)



Not Giving Up: Players need to be prepared to compete—soccer can be a physically demanding game—and they need to be prepared to endure. That takes effort. Practice can be a lot of fun, but it needs to retain a sense of focus as well. Life is not just fun and games.

Holding Your Tongue: Play the game. The officials are not out to get you. It is true that mistakes can be made, but there are always plenty of mistakes to go around. Hold your tongue and play the game. There may be internal dimensions to this—players sometimes get on each other. No one is perfect. And we cannot be a house divided. We can talk openly about forgiveness and faith in our setting.

Being Flexible: Often players come into college thinking that they will continue in the roles they had in high school. As a coach, I put players into positions where they can be most successful on the college level—individually and collectively. Players need to be able to make that type of adjustment.

Coach Paul Koelpin
(men’s soccer)



Honoring God Through Lifelong Fitness:

I tell my athletes that they have the unique opportunity to have lifelong fitness through running. Whether they run a six-minute mile or a nine-minute mile, the ability and willingness to run is something that they should carry with them to keep their bodies

healthy. Every gift comes from God. Out of appreciation for all the gifts he gives us, we should use them to his glory. Running is no different. We can honor God by keeping our bodies physically fit, both while at MLC and in life afterwards.

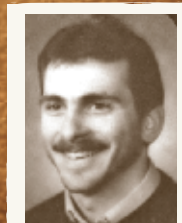
Coach Mark Weinkauff
(men’s cross country)



**Korey
Van Kampen**
MLC 2001
Kingman AZ



**Marilyn
Bartsch**
DMLC 1961
Johnson MN



**Jon
Sonntag**
DMLC 1986
Milwaukee



**Sarah
Filiere**
MLC 2001
Adrian MI



CHAPEL OF THE CHRIST —



A building can help build a culture.

That's certainly true of Chapel of the Christ, which became a focal point for campus life the first day it welcomed worshipers inside. In every brick, stone, beam, and carefully crafted furnishing, Chapel of the Christ says, "We worship Christ. We gather around his Word. We celebrate the sacraments he instituted. And we fill this space with his praise."

Even its exterior communicates: The cross on the cupola speaks a tacit gospel, and no matter which direction you come from, you will read one of the four solas carved into the granite above the entrances: Solus Christus, Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, and Sola Fide—that is, Christ Alone, Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone.

Dedicated in April 2010 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of WELS, Chapel of the Christ was funded by hundreds of Holy Spirit-inspired donors. Almost immediately, the building became a campus icon. For both visitors and campus family alike, the name Martin Luther College brings to mind Old Main and Chapel of the Christ. Old Main has history on its side, but the chapel expresses even more eloquently who—and whose—we are.

A Retrospective

Worship and Ministry Training

Every weekday morning and evening (and during a pandemic, every weekend as well), the chapel draws hundreds of students, faculty, and staff to worship.

Even as their hearts are fixed on Christ, future called workers learn from experienced preachers, hear talented musicians, participate in many different liturgies, and absorb the rhythms of worship well done—all skills they will take with them into their future ministries.

“Future pastors continue toward becoming excellent communicators of law and gospel as they lead evening chapels,” says **Dr. John Boeder** NWC '86, WLS '90, MLC campus pastor since 2000. “As seasoned devotion leaders point God’s people to Christ in our chapel services, young Christians are fed and equipped to take the gospel into the world.”

Sacramental Focus

The large stone baptismal font sits at the entrance to the nave, symbolizing that baptism is the door to the church. “Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).

Like the chapel itself, the font is octagonal, the number 8 symbolizing resurrection and eternity. As the eye moves ahead, the sacramental focus continues. We see the ambo, where the gospel is proclaimed; the altar, where Holy Communion is celebrated; and the *croce dipinta*, the painted cross of Christ himself.

Music for the Master

Organ teachers like Professor **Craig Hirschmann** DMLC '84 teach students how to lead congregational song, expertise the students take to churches all over the synod.

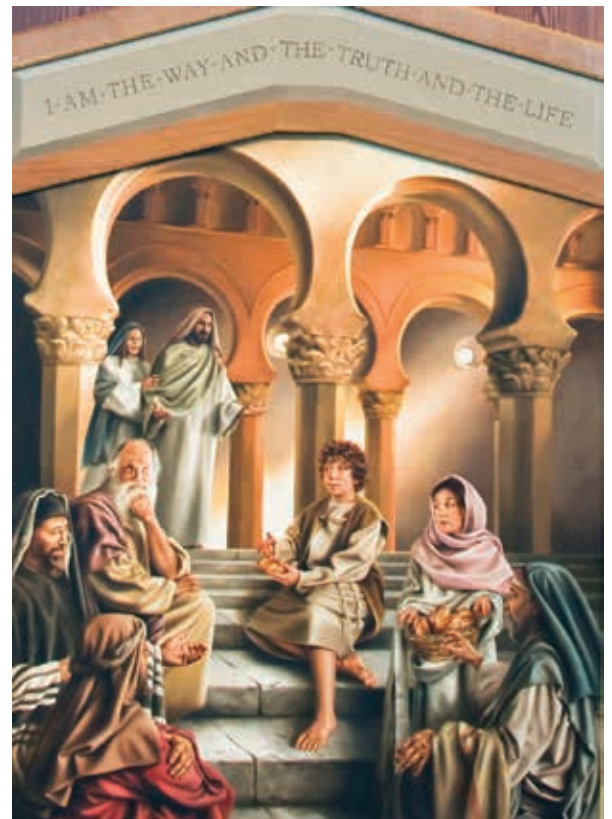
Professors and students alike bring out the best of the Schantz organ during chapel services as well as concerts and recitals.

The chapel beams vibrate with the 16' Posaunenbass, and children smile to see the delightful rotating star and hear the five tinkling bells of the Zimbelstern.





CHAPEL OF THE CHRIST —



Creativity in Service to the Creator

The chancel in Chapel of the Christ features several works of art, but they do much more than please the eye. They inform and inspire the spirit—all to the glory of God.

The images, shapes, symbols, and even numbers on the Altar of Revelation all point to Christ. The triptych altarpiece depicts three scenes from the life of Christ. And the *croce dipinta*, the painted cross, hangs above, directing the eye down to the altar, where we see a mosaic of the slain Lamb and that all-important word of Christ, “Finished,” in Greek, German, Latin, and English.



A Retrospective



Praise During a Pandemic

The chapel normally seats 1,000. During the pandemic, chairs have been socially distanced, and in-person chapel attendance is limited. Students take turns attending in person and watching the livestream in their dorm rooms.

Technology Amplifies Worship Experience

“Clear, audible sound and appropriate use of visual aids has always been an important part of worship,” says **Instructor Benjamin Matzke**, who facilitates the students in the audio-visual booth, “but as remote viewing becomes increasingly common, effective live video streaming has grown to equal importance.”

An added blessing: When these students graduate, they take their technology skills with them to the churches and schools they are called to serve.



EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER



When we began the “Let the Children Come” campaign in 2011, we may not have anticipated just how many children would come—and how far this building’s influence would reach.

Ground broke for our 15,500-square-foot facility in April 2013 (*pictured*), and since its dedication in October 2014, the building has been full of tender babies, energetic toddlers, and curious preschoolers—all of them hearing the gospel day after day after day: “Jesus loves you. Jesus is here with you. Jesus takes care of you. Jesus died for your sins. Jesus wants you to live with him forever.”

A staff of 12—including a called director, four called lead teachers, six teaching assistants, and an administrative assistant—nurture and educate the children.

Nearly 100 children are enrolled, and more than 50 families are on the waitlist.



– A Retrospective

A Teaching Lab

The center provides much more than care and education for area children, though. It also serves as a teaching lab for MLC student teachers.

On average, 25 MLC seniors serve as student teachers every year in the center. They observe the experienced educators. They write lesson plans, teach the children, observe and assess the children's growth, and play with purpose.

They absorb the atmosphere and adopt the culture: This is what a Christ-centered school looks and feels like.

All of this they take into their own congregations come Call Day. Some are assigned as early childhood teachers. Some as directors. And some are asked to create preschools from scratch. They're ready.

A Consultation Center

As we expected, the center receives many visitors every year. WELS teachers and other congregational leaders come to observe our program, examine the facility layout, and watch how it all works in service to the gospel.

Early Childhood Professors Jen Mehlberg MLC '07 and Cheryl Loomis DMLC '77 also provide continuing (and complimentary) consulting services to congregations. Dozens of directors and teachers call and email with questions about curriculum, enrollment, staffing, marketing, facilities, parent and church relationships, government regulations, and more. Some of them know the MLC professors personally because they received their training here. Others know them simply by their reputation and expertise.

More ECE Teachers Needed



The center greets other visitors as well: large groups of high school students stop by during their "Focus on Ministry" weekends at MLC. As the students take a peek at the bustling center, the admissions counselors press on them the need for more ECE teachers.

"It's so important to get them excited for this ministry," Mehlberg says. "There's a desperate need for early childhood directors and degreed teachers. The first years of a child's life are so important educationally. That's also when a family's religious habits are being developed, so through ECE we can reach whole families."

Reaching children and families with the gospel—that's the mission of this program, this center, and this college. May God continue to bless it!



Early Childhood Ministry Could Be Your Ministry

Want to learn more? MLC offers early childhood education courses at all levels:

BS Early Childhood Education

mlc-wels.edu/academics/early_childhood

MS Educational Administration-Early Childhood Director

mlc-wels.edu/graduate-studies/early-childhood-director-emphasis

Early Childhood Educator Series

mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/early-childhood-educator-series

Summer 2021: *Flexible Formats for Continuing Education*

Called workers, everyone knows how you've gone above and beyond this past year. Moving from in-person to online—or a hybrid of both. Teaching and leading on new video platforms. Employing new applications. Learning new methodologies. Making sure your students and congregation members are physically safe and emotionally healthy. And, as always, filling your conversations with Christ and speaking Jesus' love into all those souls in front of you.

You've been faithful servants. Now let us serve you! Let us share information that will make your ministries even more effective next year, whether we're still battling this pandemic or not!

“MLC wants to meet WELS teachers' needs so that they can meet their students' needs. That's how we as a synod can keep providing a high-quality, gospel-centered education to the students and families of our schools.”

Professor Rachel Feld



OpenLearning@MLC Conference | June 15-16, 2021 “Serving in Times of Crisis”

When MLC rose to the challenge and launched the first virtual conference last year, more than 1,000 called workers registered!

Join us this year for our second conference. Sit back and soak up the knowledge—or sit up and engage with MLC professors and your colleagues all over the country.

This year's conference featured a pre-conference sectional in February. “Trauma-Informed Christian Schools” focused on student and teacher mental and emotional health. It will be archived for several months at mlc-wels.edu/openlearning/

The June 15-16 conference features six sectionals:

- Hitting the Reset on Classroom Management - Professor Ben Clemons
- Serving Families in Crisis - Dr. Joshua Mears
- Quality Physical Education Technology Resources - Professor Dan Gawrisch
- Team Building and Leadership in a Crisis - Dr. Jeff Wiechman
- Social-Emotional Needs of Students in Crisis - Dr. Jennifer Londgren
- Communication and Wellness with Technology - Professor Rachel Feld

mlc-wels.edu/openlearning/register/



Andrew
Hussman
MLC 2011
Murrieta CA



Sara
Bode
MLC 1996
Sussex WI



Mark
Ricke
DMLC 1976
Waterford WI



Sarah
Bishop
MLC 2006
Port Orchard WA

Satellite Courses: Let Us Come to You!

This summer, MLC professors are offering 25 face-to-face courses at a dozen different locations, including three district teachers' conferences. If you're in the Dakota/Montana, Michigan, or Pacific Northwest District, you can attend the conference, enjoy the fellowship, and earn credits or clock-hours as you expand your skills.

- Dakota/Montana District – St. Martin-Watertown SD
- Michigan District – Bowling Green State University
- Pacific Northwest District – Evergreen LHS

Our professors are also teaching face-to-face courses at nine other satellite locations:

- Lakeside LHS
- Shoreland LHS
- Wisconsin LHS
- Immanuel-Medford WI
- St. Paul-Green Bay WI
- Jerusalem-Morton Grove IL
- St. Mark-Eau Claire WI
- St. Luke-Oakfield WI
- Christ Our Redeemer-Aurora CO

Can We Come to Your Location Next Summer?

Hosting a satellite course is easy. Contact Dr. John Meyer (507.354.8221 x398) if you're interested.

MLC	MLC Instructor	Host
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedules course • Provides instructor • Pays instructor • Advertises course • Enrolls participants • Collects payments • Provides credit/clock-hours • Pays host \$200 honorarium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranges own meals, lodging, transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does local advertising • Provides classroom • Provides nametags and refreshments • Receives \$200 honorarium from MLC

“The teachers are so appreciative of the fact that we come to them,” says Dr. Cindy Whaley. “The satellite locations offer the opportunity for teachers from many states to come together and learn at one site.”



Dr. Cindy Whaley

2018 satellite course attendees at St. Mark-Eau Claire WI



mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/satellite-courses/



David Malchow
NWC 1991
Tucson AZ



Kristine Peitsmeyer
MLC 2011
Grove City OH



John Eich
NWC 1981
Lake Stevens WA



Judith Muehlenbeck
DMLC 1961
Saginaw MI



Meet the Presidents

Martin Luther College Mark Zarling (2007-2020)

President Mark Zarling (b. 1954) trained for pastoral ministry at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Northwestern College, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, graduating in 1980. Upon graduation he was assigned to

St. Matthew in Danube, Minnesota, where he served for four years before accepting a call to Bethany in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. In 1996, the Lord led Mark to accept a call to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, where he served as professor of Old Testament theology and academic dean with a focus on Christian education. All three responsibilities served him well when he accepted the call in 2007 as the second president of Martin Luther College, serving until his retirement from the public ministry in 2020.

Mark was a strong spiritual leader who fulfilled his love for teaching on and off 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. His "Letters from Home" communicated our heavenly Father's love for his dear children as they prepared for public ministry.

As an effective administrator, Mark led firmly but gently, collaborating and communicating, at times delegating and at other times rolling up his sleeves. He traveled extensively on behalf of the college, serving as a warm and sincere MLC ambassador all over the synod. Although no exact records were kept, it is safe to say he set the standard for the most miles traveled while sharing the college's mission. A typical week saw him leaving campus on Friday to preach, teach, and visit with constituents, returning midweek to lead administrative meetings on campus, and leaving on Friday to start the cycle again.

With his keen vision, Mark 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. Working with a new Office of Mission Advancement, he oversaw the building of Chapel of the Christ and a state-of-the-art Early Childhood Learning Center, and he launched a campaign for a new athletic center and residence hall.

In the words of WELS President Mark Schroeder, "President Zarling leaves an impression. He is a scholar . . . a gifted writer . . . a powerful preacher. He loves people and shows interest in every individual. But most striking and memorable . . . is his heartfelt love for his Savior and his desire to share the good news of Jesus."

Written by **Professor Steven Thiesfeldt DMLC '74**



Northwestern College

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



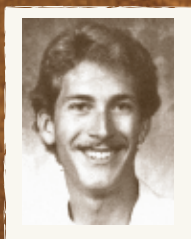
Dr. Martin Luther College

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



Martin Luther College

1995-2007 Theodore Olsen
2007-2020 Mark Zarling
2020-present Richard Gurgel



Thomas Neuman
DMLC 1981
Shelby MI



Jean Noeldner
DMLC 1986
South Shore SD



Timothy Sonntag
MLC 1996
Alpine CA



Paul Kante
NWC 1966
Milwaukee

Fisher of Men Dedication

MLC Day
Wednesday, May 5

Time: 11:30 am

Watch this live-streamed event at mlc-wels.edu/streams

The MLC Alumni Association thanks all who supported the *Fishers of Men* campaign to make this special 25th anniversary gift possible. In addition to the statue, the campaign also raised \$30,000 to endow an alumni scholarship.

Fisher of Men is the copyrighted & trademarked creation of Christian artist, Max Greiner, Jr. of Kerrville, Texas © (www.maxgreinerart.com)



Christian Worship Hymnal Project

In anticipation of the fall 2021 release of the new *Christian Worship* hymnals, MLCAA has selected 100 (or 200) hymnals and their corresponding resources as its current project.

Using the new *Christian Worship* in daily chapel services will help our future leaders, musicians, and educators become thoroughly trained in and knowledgeable of our synod's vast worship resources.

Please consider a gift to support the scholarship endowment and hymnal purchase. Online donations (credit card or ACH) can be made at bit.ly/MLCAlumni. Checks can be made out to MLCAA and sent to MLC Alumni Association, 1995 Luther Ct., New Ulm MN 56073.

The college needs about 1,000 hymnals, so we hope that others (families, reunion classes, congregations, schools, individuals) will also adopt 100 hymnals (\$3,000). The goal is to purchase all 1,000 hymnals immediately upon their release.

If your group would like to claim 100, please contact Vice President for Mission Advancement Mike Otterstatter (ottersmj@mlc-wels.edu or 507.354.8221 x 386).



The Last Word

Since 2017, the MLC Archives Committee has interviewed each retiring professor about their ministries and more.

The latest interviewee was **President Emeritus Mark Zarling** NWC '76, WLS '80.

His interviewer, **Lois (Sievert) Bode** DMLC '67, writes:

Outgoing MLC President Mark G. Zarling's first step onto the campus was accompanied by "a little bit of fear—okay, more than a little bit."

He revealed that he had to overcome a tendency to be a quiet person in order to become the "face of the college."

The building of the Chapel of the Christ highlighted his tenure. "As the chapel went up and students saw the beauty of it and the scale of it," he said, "there was no doubt in their minds. Jesus was most important here."

Listen to the whole collection of interviews and read the transcripts at mlc-wels.edu/history/professor-interviews/

History by the Book

With MLC's first 25 years "in the books," we thought we'd look back at some of the books that tell the tales of our precious past in 25-year increments.

For those interested in further exploration, a fine collection of MLC, NWC, and DMLC history has been digitized and is available to view at mlc-wels.edu/history.

25 YEARS AGO

MLC Shield Yearbook 1995-96



A year of firsts is found scattered throughout the 1995-96 *Shield*.

With amalgamation, former Lancers and Trojans were now Knights. As the baseball page notes, the "team set records in every statistical category." New clubs, new traditions, new teams, new activities, new faces, new friends, new facilities (think: "the Link")—all are pictured and celebrated in this inaugural annual.

Highlights from the Shield:

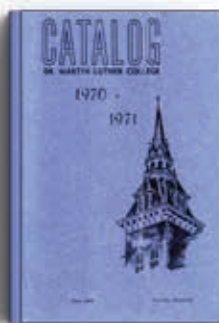


Above: The leader of the pack, Aaron Robinson, leads his team to victory against Crown College during Homecoming '95.

SEASON SUMMARY		
IN LIKE A LAMB, OUT LIKE A LION: Starting with 2 losses, they ended their season 5-2 gaining 2nd place in Conference.		
	Opp.	MLC
Maranatha	21	13
Mount Senario	30	20
Northwestern	14	28
Crown	0	14
UM-Crookston	27	32
Concordia-St. Paul	25	35
Trinity Bible	27	48

50 YEARS AGO

DMLC Catalog 1970-71



The 1970-71 catalog boasts of modern facilities. The Luther Memorial Union (now Luther Student Center) opened in 1968, and two new facilities were under construction: a library and a new women's dormitory (Highland then, Concord now). All this expansion came at a price, as the total for tuition, room & board neared the four-figure mark.

Highlights from the catalog:

Married Students: Applications from married students are considered only in cases where the applicant has determined later in life to prepare for full-time service in the church. Such applications are considered only as exceptions. Aside from the foregoing, married students are not accepted. This policy is waived during the summer sessions.

Schedule of Charges

Board and Room per year:	\$410.00
General Fees per year:	\$450.00

Refundable is \$200 of this \$450 after graduation and entrance into the full-time teaching ministry in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, with refunds of \$200 granted annually for up to four years of service.

When more than one member of the same family attend synodical schools to prepare for church work, a remission of \$100 of this fee is granted the younger students in college.

Hillview Hall: This women's residence hall (pictured) was constructed in 1964 at a cost of \$820,000. It provides the most modern of facilities for 220 women.



New Dormitory: Construction for the new women's residence hall [Highland Hall] began in January 1970.



Christopher Johns
MLC 2011
Crete IL



Lillian Gutknecht
DMLC 1951
Buffalo MN



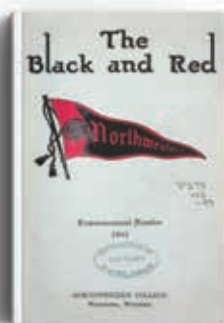
Matthew Zehms
NWC 1966
Chaseburg WI



Anna Ungemach
MLC 2016
Manitowoc WI

75 YEARS AGO

NWC Black & Red 1945-46



World War II's impact on ministerial training at our schools was significant. The 1945-46 *Black & Red* laments the losses of several students-turned-servicemen while noting the return of some "normalcy" to NWC.

Highlights from the Black & Red:

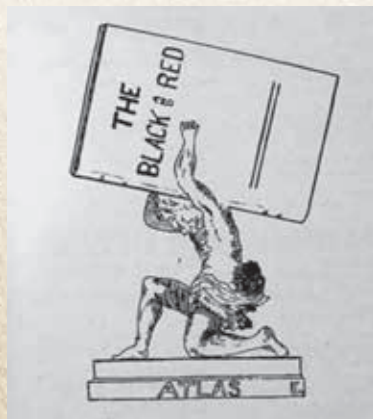
V-E Day: "V-E Day," it said on the bulletin board on Monday morning, May 7. . . . Tuesday was very much

like any other day here. Classes were held as usual. There was no boisterous rejoicing; a spirit of solemn thanksgiving rather prevailed. The quarantine made it impossible for us to attend special V-E services; so we held our own special service in the chapel with Professor Kowalke in charge. May God see fit to bring our war against Japan to a speedy and successful conclusion.



Geraldine M. Boelter: I'm of the opinion that Miss Boelter is perhaps the only female ever to graduate from the Normal department of Dr. Martin Luther College and the Collegiate department of Northwestern College. . . . Some of the boys started a campaign, "Geraldine for Campus Queen," which goes to show that we *did* enjoy her stay.

No More Summer School: Now that the war is over . . . there will be no summer school at Northwestern College in 1946. That has been definitely decided. Just exactly how we are going to recall order from chaos no one has been able to determine, but we have some of the best heads in the Synod working on it.



100 YEARS AGO

DMLC Messenger 1920-21



With WWI and the Spanish Flu in the not-so-distant past, an aura of optimism is evident in the recording of campus life.

Highlights from the Messenger:

New President: When the bell rang out on the opening of school, Sept. 1, the student-body was somewhat surprised to hear the news that our director,

Prof. Joh. P. Meyer, had accepted a call to the Ev. Lutheran Seminary at Wauwatosa, Wis. In his place Prof. E. R. Bliefernicht has been installed. [A letter from Prof. Meyer, written in German, follows.] Prof. Meyer's house was remodeled into a girls' dormitory. This is a great help to the girls. They do not have to climb the hill, especially in winter when the path is covered with snow.

From the 1921 Commencement Address: In the art of teaching . . . we have not been taught how to impart knowledge merely, but to set forth the knowledge in the same light of the gospel as it has been taught us. We are to consider our children, entrusted to our care, not merely as living beings, but as living souls before God.

Earning a Letter: Professor Palmbach called a meeting of the basket-ball team on April 2. The object of calling the meeting was to award, those players who had participated in three or more games, with letters. Prof. Palmbach furnished candy and smokes. The time went by unnoticed. Never before has a player of this college been awarded a letter. May this continue and thereby encourage more students to join the sport.

Pictured: The basketball team of the following year, 1921-22, were eager to earn an athletic letter too.



Front row from left to right: E. Yachin, V. Schuch, E. Kautz, W. Schuch. Back row from left to right: P. Schuch, Prof. Dr. Palmbach, E. Kautz.



Bill Limmer
NWC 1986
El Paso TX



Gertrude Engelhardt
DMLC 1941
Elgin ND



Martin Wildauer
NWC 1986
Dearborn Heights MI



Carrie Zietlow
DMLC 1981
Anchorage AK



FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Dr. Richard Bakken (adjunct, Graduate Studies) has been appointed Assistant Chief Information Officer at Stanford University. He leads the Support Services division of Residential and Dining Enterprises Information Technology.

Dr. John Boeder NWC '86, WLS '90 (campus pastor, theology) presented a Congregational Assistant Program seminar, "Christian Leadership," at St. Peter-Schofield WI in October. He was also recently elected to The Lutheran Home Association Board of Directors.

Professor Rachel Feld MLC '06 (director of Academic Computing and Online Learning) virtually presented "Increasing Engagement and Collaboration in Virtual Learning" to the Lakeside LHS faculty in November.

Laurie Gauger-Hested DMLC '87 (writer/editor) published two columns for *Forward in Christ's* parenting column, *Heart to Heart*: "If They're Trustworthy, Trust Them" and "Connecting at Christmas."

Professor Kelli Green DMLC '92 (education) presented "Trauma-Informed Christian Schools" at St. Paul-Beverly Hills FL in January and at the MLC OpenLearning Forum in February. She published "Sustaining Compassion in Education" in *Lutheran Issues in Education* in January. She led a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) overview at St. Paul-New Ulm MN in November, and provided continuing inservice training and consultation in MTSS Tiers 1-3 Diverse Learners Series at Minnesota Valley LHS in fall and winter, 2020-2021.



Dr. Robert Klindworth DMLC '70 (education) was reappointed to the MN Nonpublic Education Council for a four-year term by Governor Walz and sworn in by MN Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker in January. He was elected to vice chair of the council and to chair of the council's Accreditation Committee.

Dr. Ryan MacPherson (adjunct, Graduate Studies) presented a two-part bioethics workshop to WELS pastors and laypeople in northern Wisconsin in January: "Aborted Human Fetal Tissue in Vaccines: Sad Facts, Troubled Consciences, and Sanctified Decisions" and "Three Estates, Two Kingdoms, and One Lord: Understanding Your Vocation for Medical Decision-Making."

He also accepted an appointment as part-time director of the Center for Apologetics and Worldview Studies at Bethany Lutheran College.

Dr. Kari Muent MLC '99 (social sciences) presented two sessions at the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Virtual Conference in December: "Disruption as a New Normal: From COVID-19, Remote Learning, and Racial Unrest to a Divisive Presidential Election" and "Using Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to Support Inquiry Design for All Learners."



Professor Thomas Nass NWC '77, WLS '82 (Hebrew) presented five essays based on the book of Joel at the Metro Milwaukee Pastors' Conference at Woodlawn-West Allis in January.

Dr. Lawrence Olson NWC '79, WLS '83 (theology, director of Staff Ministry Program and Congregational Assistant Program)

presented two Congregational Assistant Program seminars in October: "Christ's Church and Her Ministry" at St. Peter-Schofield WI and "Life of Luther" at Hope-Chino Valley AZ. He also preached for the Reformation service at Hope-Chino Valley.

MLC and FVL

Four MLC professors presented two- and three-part educational topics to the Fox Valley Lutheran Schools in the fall and spring:

Dr. James Carlovsky MLC '02
(math, instructional technology)
"Best Practices in Middle School Math"

Professor Jennifer Mehlberg MLC '07 (education)
"Play in the Early Childhood Classroom"

Dr. Kari A Muent MLC '99 (social sciences)
"The Social Studies Curriculum & Universal Design for Learning"

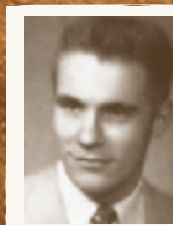
Professor Jonathan Roux DMLC '94 (education)
"Writing in the Middle and Upper Grades"



Marc Frey
NWC 1976
Grand Junction CO



Kendall Cook
MLC 2011
Sebewaing MI



Robert Drews
NWC 1956
Fond du Lac WI



Wayne Strehler
DMLC 1971
Hamel MN

Dr. Joel Pless WLS '86 (adjunct, Graduate Studies) appeared on WELS Kids' Connection to tell the story of the Wisconsin Synod founding at Salem-Milwaukee.

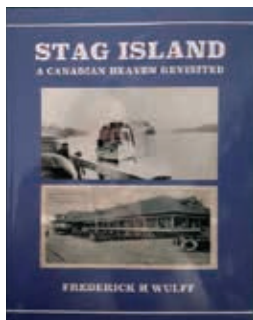
Instructor Todd Russ MLC '91 (adjunct, Graduate Studies) developed a high school course titled Global and Cultural Competency. He also serves on the Grace in Action Board of Directors and the COGNIA Advisory Board for Minnesota.

Professor David Scharf MLC '00, WLS '05 (theology) presented a keynote address on marriage and led a workshop on parenting at St. Mark-DePere WI in February.

Instructor Jason Schmidt MLC '04 (adjunct, Graduate Studies) received his Certified Education Technology Leader certification from the Consortium for School Networking in July. He also published "Tips to Avoid Zoom Bombing" and "Quarantine Kids" in *Issues in Lutheran Education* in April and November, respectively.

Professor Tingting Z. Schwartz MS Ed '15 (Chinese) led a four-week workshop series on bilingual education at home in January. She presented in Mandarin via Zoom for Chinese families in China and first-generation Chinese Americans in the United States. She was also appointed a board member of the New Ulm Public Library in January.

Professor Emeritus Dr. David Wendler DMLC '70 presented "New Programs and Continuous Improvement," an all-day virtual workshop, at the University of Central Oklahoma's Educator Leadership Academy in November. He also continues to consult with universities on accreditation, governance, and other higher education issues, working with seven different universities in 2020 and 2021.



Professor Emeritus Frederick Wulff DMLC '64 has self-published his ninth book, *Stag Island: A Canadian Heaven Revisited*.

MLC and ALHSO

The Association of Lutheran High Schools Online (ALHSO) is expanding to a full virtual high school, Amazing Grace Virtual Academy.

Three MLC faculty members are helping facilitate the transition:



Professor Peter Baganz
DMLC '87 (history) serves as vice chair of the Board of Directors.



Professor Emeritus Dr. James Grunwald
DMLC '78 serves as ALHSO superintendent.



Professor Ted Klug
MLC '97 (admissions counselor) serves on the Board of Directors.

The ALHSO is an online course service provider that allows WELS high schools to expand their own curricular offerings in a cost-effective manner.

MLC hosts and maintains the hardware and software for the courses. Many ALHSO instructors completed their teaching degrees and online training through MLC, and several MLC faculty members teach courses.

ALHSO began in fall 2011 with two courses. Today it offers 45 courses to 400+ students. The full virtual academy, Amazing Grace, is hoping to launch in fall 2021.



David Kock
NWC 1951
Rockford MN



Jennifer Milewski
MLC 2016
Freeland MI



Marcus Spiegelberg
MLC 2001
Grand Junction CO

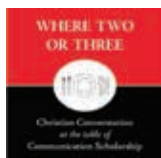


Carla Free
DMLC 1986
Omaha NE

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

MLC and Podcasts

PODCAST HOSTING



Where Two or Three

Dr. Mark Paustian NWC '84, WLS '88 (English, Hebrew) cohosts this podcast dedicated to Christian theology and communication theory. Two recent episodes focus on listening skills.



Christ for Disciples

Dr. Paul Steinberg NWC '93, WLS '97 (adjunct, Graduate Studies)

hosts this 10-minute weekday podcast aimed at those who disciple the next generation for Jesus: parents, teachers, coaches, ministers, etc. They have produced more than 600 episodes in their first three years of production.



WELSTech

Professor Rachel Feld MLC '06 and **Adjunct Instructor Jason Schmidt** MLC '04 cohost this podcast dedicated to furthering ministry through technology. Recent episodes focus on

virtual learning and screencasting.

PODCAST GUESTING

Dr. Mark Paustian



- *The Well Mind Podcast*: Pastoral and professional counseling
- *Impact*: Genesis 15, Exodus 2; books authored by Dr. Paustian

Professor David Scharf

- *Impact*: Judges 1-2, 1 Samuel 1-2, Romans 8
- *Gird Up*: Exploring what it means to be a man of God

Professor James Pope

- *Impact*: 1 Corinthians 1, Galatians 6, 1 Peter

MLC and Lutheran Chapel Service

For more than 70 years, the Lutheran Chapel Service has shared the gospel over the airwaves every Sunday morning at 7:45 am on KNUJ 860 AM. More recently, the services have been livestreamed and archived at knuj.net.

This year two new faculty members are taking up the mantle.

Professor Nicolas Schmoller MLC '06, WLS '10 has been appointed the new host. He replaces **Professor James Pope** NWC '77, WLS '81, who is retiring after 10 years of hosting.

Professor Rachel Feld MLC '06 has been appointed the new technician. She replaces **Professor Emeritus John Nolte** DMLC '68, who is retiring after serving 32 years as technician.

For more of the interesting history of this service, see "70 Years of the Lutheran Chapel Service" by Clarice Fastenau in the Fall 2019 issue of MLC *InFocus* at mlc-wels.edu/publications/infocus.



Professor James Pope is retiring after 10 years of hosting the Lutheran Chapel Service.



Professor Emeritus John Nolte is retiring after 32 years of tech support for the Lutheran Chapel Service.



Earl Pappenfuss
DMLC 1956
Iron Ridge WI



Paul Bourman
MLC 2016
Rochester MN



Mark Kaiser
DMLC 1991
Colorado Springs



Lisa Lindholm
DMLC 1991
Winona MN

Service to God and Country Scholarship

We're grateful to Mary (Brick) Spain and MG(R) Edwin E. Spain III, who established this scholarship in 2020.

Both veterans of the United States Army, Mary and Edwin established this scholarship as a tribute to Mary's long relationship with D/MLC through her father, Professor Emeritus Delmar C. Brick; her mother, Ione E. (Huebner) Brick DMLC '44, '65; her sister, Lois A. Brick DMLC '72; her uncle, President Emeritus Lloyd O. Huebner; and others in the family.

Mary and Edwin's love of the United States Military also connects them to the military service of several relatives: Mary's maternal grandfather, Carl F. Huebner (WWI, US Army); her uncle, Elroy Brick (WWII, US Army); her uncle, Wayne Huebner (post-WWII, US Army); her uncle, Harry Teteak, spouse of Ruth (Huebner) Teteak (WWII and Korea, US Air Force); and Robert Stevens, spouse of Nona (Huebner) Stevens (WWII, US Navy).

Mary and Edwin's younger daughter, Nona (Spain) Healy, currently serves in the US Army Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel, and her spouse, Doug Healy, serves as an

active-duty Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army. Mary's five years of service (active Army) and Edwin's 37 years of service (active Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve) connect all these legacies of military service and service to God.

As enthusiastic supporters of education, Mary and Edwin wish to assist students who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. They are grateful that God has blessed them financially and provided them this opportunity to give generously.



"Christus Paradox"

(oil paint and gold leaf on canvas, 48"x60")

Jason Jaspersen, WELS artist

***Our suffering Savior,
crowned with thorns, robed in scorn,
brings us comfort in all our suffering.***

***Our risen Savior,
crowned with gold, wrapped in glory,
brings us the joy of eternal life.***

*We at Martin Luther College pray that these
precious gifts be yours this Easter.
Please pray for us too—that our Savior continue
to smile on the students preparing to serve him
in the public ministry.
If you're able, we invite you to support MLC
with a financial gift as well.*

Blessed Easter!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Gurgel".

Rich Gurgel
MLC President





We loved how you celebrated the 2020 graduates last year!

This year, to commemorate MLC's 25th anniversary,
we will honor
2021 graduates and all 1995-2020 graduates!

Using our online platform,
you can share messages, prayers, photos, and videos to . . .

- **CONGRATULATE** that special 2021 grad
- **HONOR** a 1995-2020 graduate—a pastor, teacher, or staff minister
- **ACKNOWLEDGE** an old friend from MLC
- **SAY 'THANK YOU!'** to any MLC graduate who is making a difference in Jesus' name

We also invite you
to donate to our Congregational Partner Grant Program
in the name of your designated graduate.

mlcday.com

