

IN FOCUS

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

SUMMER 2021

In This Issue . . .

New Cultural
Engagement Center

Our College:
25 Years in Pictures

Call Day Assignments



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A GLIMPSE OF HEAVENLY GLORY .



In Revelation, our Savior paints powerful pictures of the current reality and the eternal results of his saving love for us. Such is the beautiful picture of Revelation 7:9-10.

The Double Reunification of Heaven

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

*'Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.'"*

What an awesome glimpse of the eternal wedding feast the Lamb has prepared for his dear bride, the church! We see the perfect, never to be re-broken, reunification with their God of sinners washed in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14).

But there is a second beautiful reality in this picture. Our Bridegroom has not only reunited us with himself but also with one another. That's important, since the fall into sin didn't just divide us from our God. It drove a wedge between each of us and every other sinner at the same time. As the Lutheran theologian and hymn writer Martin Franzmann eloquently put it:

*We fled our God, and losing him,
We lost our brother too.
Each singly sought and claimed his own;
Each man his brother slew. (CW 396:2)*

And so Revelation 7 comforts us by showing us not only our restoration to our God, but our restoration to each other as well. Gathered before our Savior is *"a great multitude . . . from every nation, tribe, people and language."* In heaven, all human distinctions so noticeable, and so often divisive for life on this earth, will cease to matter.

The Challenge of Living That Reality Now

Our Bridegroom invites his dearly loved bride to have an eternal wedding rehearsal where we practice now this eternal reality.

But that is so hard to do! Despite knowing his grace, we still struggle to live out the implications that we follow a Savior who has no favorites (Romans 2:11). The boiling over of racial tensions in our country has been a powerful reminder of what a divisive force our differences can be.

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 new statue, Fisher of Men, is unveiled by Professor Emeritus Roger Klockziem and Professor Jon Schaefer.
See more on page 28.

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.

.. AND ITS REFLECTION AT MLC

By President Rich Gurgel
NWC '81, WLS '86

And this struggle is nothing new for us! It's been a struggle since the birth of the Christian church. God felt it necessary three times to repeat to Peter, *"Do not call anything impure that God has made clean"* as he prepared him to enter without scruples into the home of the Gentile Cornelius (Acts 10). It was in no small part racial pride and prejudice that led to the Jews' vehement rejection of Paul's Gentile ministry. Even during Jesus' ministry, his disciples were taken aback when they found him in conversation with a Samaritan woman (John 4).

In every age of Christian history, Christ's bride has shown she has much to learn when it comes to imitating the breadth of her Bridegroom's love. The sinful nature of every one of us has a keen ability to turn any difference between ourselves and others into a source of pride or a source of envy—or a twisted mix of both. Paul minces no words when he describes our natural way of thinking to Titus: *"We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another"* (Titus 3:3).

As we confess the reality of our natural, deep-seated hostility toward other sinners, the only solution is again and again to remember how God broke through our even deeper-seated hostility toward him. And that is precisely how Paul continues in Titus: *"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy"* (Titus 3:4). Again and again we go back to the reality that it is the appearance of God's kindness and love in the person and ministry of Jesus that restores us to our God. It has nothing to do with us showing ourselves somehow better or different by nature from anyone. It is not about *"righteous things we have done."* It is all about *"his mercy."*

How powerfully that impacts how we view others around us! Day by day, salvation by mercy teaches us to die to any boastful pride that would set ourselves above anyone. We are all beggars in need of equal mercy! Day by day, God's mercy in Jesus frees us from having to prove ourselves worthy of favor from God. God has in Jesus freely exalted us to the highest position imaginable. We are loved children and eternal heirs of God. As we die and rise daily to these realities of mercy, God not only strengthens our bond to him, but he simultaneously destroys any reason for pride or envy toward those around us. While an unbelieving world sees others as competitors in a power struggle for limited earthly resources, we learn to see others as equally needy beggars like us who are equally free recipients of God's mercy in his Son! Christ's dying and rising mercy teaches us more and more each day to see no one *"from a worldly point of view"* (2 Corinthians 5:16). Such is the barrier-smashing power of God's mercy!

A New Opportunity to Reflect This Reality More Clearly

It's a very important time for the MLC family to ponder yet again these merciful realities! And it's not chiefly because of the racial tensions in our own country. It is chiefly for the sake of the work of the gospel.

This summer, we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of a new professor to coordinate our efforts to recruit and retain students of color. Pastor Aaron Robinson, who is one of the currently all too few pastors of color in our synod, has accepted MLC's call to be our first cultural diversity coordinator. Pastor Robinson's call, and his arrival on our campus, are the unfolding of a plan formed several years ago. The plan sought to outline what could be done to make MLC a more inviting and welcoming place for students of color. Pastor Robinson will be partnering with Megan Kassuelke, our cultural engagement director, and Professor Tingting Schwartz, our international services coordinator.

However, there is a caution to speak at the same time. As Pastor Aaron Robinson and his family become a treasured part of our MLC family, it is certainly not time for the rest of our campus family to sit back and wait for Pastor Robinson single-handedly to improve our campus's cultural climate. His arrival will be an important time for the whole MLC family to ponder where each of us may still give all too much evidence of the natural *"malice and envy"* toward others that plague our sinful hearts. His arrival will be a time for our whole campus family to remember joyfully what Revelation held before us: the gospel obliterates every barrier of *"nation, tribe, people, and language."* His arrival will be an important time for MLC to claim anew what it means for all of us to see one another as our God sees us in Jesus.

Please join us in praying that, a generation from now, the arrival of a new faculty member of color will not be a surprising anomaly but a delightful regularity. Pray that our student body more and more reflects the astounding breadth of our Bridegroom's love for people of *"every nation, tribe, people, and language."* Such will be the glorious reality of heaven. For the sake of the gospel, God grant MLC the blessing of becoming an ever more evident glimpse of that already now!



**David
Schneider**
NWC 1991
Savanna IL



**Kristin
Rodrigue**
MLC 2016
Clifton Park NY



**Paul
Otto**
NWC 1961
Wilmot WI



**Melissa
Bruce**
DMLC 1976
Lexington KY

A Welcoming Space

THE NEW CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER AT MLC

A place where the door is open. Where everyone is welcome, seen, and heard. Where you can explore and discuss issues of diversity and culture. Where "Go and make disciples of *all nations*" is the touchstone.

This is Martin Luther College's new Cultural Engagement Center (CEC).

History: Most MLC students come from communities and congregations that are ethnically and racially homogeneous. They are white. But on Call Day, they will take the gospel into a world that is wildly and wonderfully diverse.

To prepare them, MLC has opened many channels of engagement and awareness. All students are required to take at least one intercultural elective. We offer majors in Spanish education and minors in Spanish and urban education ministry.

We offer short- and long-term study abroad options and a variety of teach abroad opportunities. Before COVID-19, it wasn't uncommon for 15-20 graduates a year to choose international service. And of course, we welcome many international students each year.

These programs were fueled and facilitated by our International Services Office, begun by Professor Emeritus Tom Hunter and Megan Kassuelke in 2015.

So cultural engagement is not a new concept at Martin Luther College. But the CEC is new. It builds on the current foundation and expands its reach.

Goals: Specifically, the CEC will be steered by three goals:

- provide a welcoming space for our diverse students and support them during their time on campus;
- be a venue for our entire campus family to engage in cross-cultural dialogue and understanding; and
- promote community on campus among students, faculty, and staff, regardless of ethnicity or background.

Making this happen are three talented and dedicated people: Megan Kassuelke, Aaron Robinson, and Tingting (Zhang) Schwartz.



Ralph Gehrke
NWC 1941
Black Creek WI



Jennifer Hunt
MLC 2011
Gainesville FL



David Sauer
DMLC 1966
Lake City MN



Dorothy Drost
DMLC 1951
Burlington WI

Mrs. Megan Kassuelke

DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT



Mrs. Megan Kassuelke brings both experience and education to her new position as director of cultural engagement. Since 2009, she had served as MLC's international student coordinator in our International Services Office. She also served as MLC's PDSO (Primary Designated School Official), the key liaison between the college and

various government agencies: Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Immigration Service, and Student and Exchange Visitor Program.

Mrs. Kassuelke holds a master's degree in ethnic and multicultural studies from Minnesota State University-Mankato, where she focused her research on diverse student populations on small, rural college campuses that are primarily white—campuses like MLC.

"My goal," she says, "is to foster a sense of belonging for all by inviting the entire campus family to join in the conversation about diversity awareness and cultural competency." This is especially important, she says, because the U.S. Census Bureau

projects that by 2050 the country's population will be less than 50% white. "Our students will need to be culturally competent to effectively share the gospel and serve these diverse populations."

Diversity in higher education has other proven benefits, Mrs. Kassuelke explains. "It is proven to expand the student's worldview and cultural awareness, improve their critical thinking skills, reduce implicit bias, and increase tolerance toward racial and ethnic differences. The CEC is meant to be a 'brave space' where diversity and culture-related discussions can take place in respectful, mindful, and authentic ways."

And the benefits will reach far beyond our campus. "What our students learn at MLC impacts the entire synod," she says. "We need culturally competent people in our classrooms and churches who show Jesus' love by making sure that everyone in their care feels seen, heard, and valued. We are in the fortunate position that we can make a big impact despite our small size simply by exploring more in depth what it looks like to love our neighbors."



Megan Kassuelke talks with two international students, **Ziwen Shi** (left) and **Kostiantyn Skorenkyi**. Visa status, immigration regulations, employment, travel plans, health concerns, insurance, taxes, shopping, getting around town, homework, grades—all are common conversation topics in her office. "And of course," she adds, "the students stop by just to say 'hi' and to share the general successes and frustrations of college life."



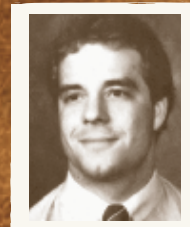
Mark Albrecht
NWC 1981
Sparta WI



Heather Wilcox
MLC 2001
Des Moines WA



Nathan Engel
NWC 1961
Medford WI



Jeffrey Dorn
DMLC 1986
Muskego WI

Prof. Aaron Robinson

CULTURAL DIVERSITY COORDINATOR



Professor Aaron Robinson, newly arrived on campus, was baptized and confirmed at St. Marcus-Milwaukee. He graduated from Northwestern Prep (now Luther Prep) and then walked in the very first Martin Luther College graduation service in 1996.

After graduating from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary four years later, he helped establish Sure Foundation Lutheran

Church in New York City, then taught and coached at St. Croix LHS and Wisconsin LHS. For the last six years, he's served as pastor at Fairview-Milwaukee.

Along with his teammates, Professor Schwartz and Mrs. Kassuelke, he's a licensed qualified administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), an inventory used to promote cultural competency growth. Some MLC faculty and staff have taken the inventory, and it's been incorporated into some graduate courses and into training for study abroad students.

At MLC, Professor Robinson will serve as the new cultural diversity coordinator. "I like to think of ministry in terms of relationships," he says. "Our relationship with God and our relationships with one another. I think it will be important for me to develop relationships with the students as I seek to support them as they prepare to serve God. Those relationships will allow us to communicate honestly, so that we might uplift and support each other as the Holy Spirit counsels us. We will be able to ask for and receive forgiveness just as God has forgiven us.

"God has called us to serve him by going to all nations," he continues. "It is important that we who are a part of the Christian church carry out the commission set out before us by Jesus. It is that simple. It is important for our campus to be about the Great Commission because the students we train will be in the world carrying out the Great Commission.

"Christians are to be salt in the world," he adds, "and I put salt on everything."



Professor Aaron Robinson brought students from Kingdom Prep-Milwaukee to an MLC Focus on Ministry on April 22. The students had opportunity to consider whether they might follow in their pastor's footsteps and pursue gospel ministry at MLC. Also on the schedule: getting a taste of college life, talking to students and admissions counselors, touring campus and, of course, saying hello to the Sprinter.

Grounded in Scripture and Christ's Love

Every news outlet and social media platform tells us how our country is grappling anew with questions of race and justice. These three people—Professor Robinson, Professor Schwartz, and Mrs. Kassuelke—are not afraid of hard questions. And their answers always start the same—with Scripture. They are intent on grounding all of us in the fundamentals of Christ's love for us and our Christ-like love for others.

Ask them about their new roles, and you hear the same key words again and again: *Jesus, relationships, Great Commission, diverse, gospel, empathy, love, inclusive, welcome.*

"In this new office," Professor Schwartz says, "I'm looking forward to creating authentic relationships with our international students by being empathetic, intentional, and emotionally intelligent, and sharing the gospel with people of all backgrounds. Together with Megan, Aaron, and others, we strive to create a more Christ-centered, diverse, and inclusive campus for our MLC community."

Mrs. Kassuelke concurs. "I'm looking forward to working together with Aaron and Tingting as a small but diverse team, combining our diverse perspectives, experiences, and



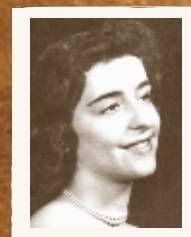
Randy Bode
DMLC 1986
Tacoma WA



Elizabeth Wallace
MLC 1996
Escondido CA



Darrick Kolterjahn
NWC 1971
Oshkosh WI



Suzanne Schwartz
DMLC 1961
Bay City MI

Prof. Tingting Schwartz

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES COORDINATOR



Professor Tingting (Zhang) Schwartz was blessed by MLC's international student services herself several years ago, and now she's excited to pay it forward.

"With the spiritual, cultural, and academic support from Christ-like people like Professor Tom and Lisa Hunter, Dr. David Wendler, Megan Kassuelke, Dr. John Meyer, and President Emeritus

Mark Zarling, I have thrived in New Ulm. I flew to the United States in the summer of 2012, intending to study at MLC for two years and return to China. Despite all the challenges, the Lord had a grander plan for me."

Professor Schwartz (then Zhang) began teaching Mandarin Chinese to MLC students. She continues to teach intercultural electives, leads study abroad experiences in China, helps train MLC graduates who will teach in China, and now will embrace her new position as international services coordinator.

"My experiences at MLC, my immigrant experiences, and my parenting experiences of raising two bilingual and biracial children have helped prepare me for this new position. The most significant aspect is providing spiritual, emotional, and academic support for our international students at MLC. In addition, I see my new role at the Cultural Engagement Center as a bridge between international students and faculty/staff on campus and the New Ulm community.

educational backgrounds to create a space to support our under-represented students and promote campus-wide cultural awareness."

And Professor Robinson, who has just arrived, adds his own take: "I'm looking forward to growing in a new way, feeling the excitement of those soon-to-be teachers, pastors, and staff ministers. I don't know what I'm most looking forward to. I'll let God surprise me."

"I pray that our new office will provide excellent services to diverse students," she continues, "so that they will find their belonging on campus and be more equipped to share the gospel with people who are culturally the same or different from them in the church and the world. I pray the Lord will use me to be our international students' advocate and a cultural partner for MLC, the New Ulm community, and our synod."



Professor Tingting Schwartz (front, second from left) and her husband, Dan (far left, holding their baby), hosted a September 2018 gathering of her advisees from MLC and his advisees from Minnesota State University-Mankato, where he serves as an international student advisor. The students—from two campuses and multiple countries—each shared a personal cultural artifact with the group and enjoyed HermannFest, a distinctly German celebration, together. The Schwartzes also host an annual hotpot party for MLC students to mark the Lunar New Year.



Professor Tingting Schwartz reads to children at the MLC Early Childhood Learning Center. Before COVID-19, she also led a Saturday morning Mandarin Story Time at Blue Earth County Library in Mankato. She also created "Bilingualkids," a WeChat public account where she regularly writes in Chinese about topics of bilingualism, language acquisition, Chinese and American education, and cultural differences.



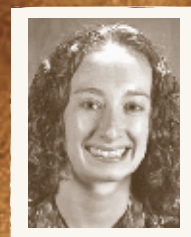
**Robert
Moldenhauer**
DMLC 1946
Milwaukee



**Dolores
Schumann**
DMLC 1941
Neillsville WI



**Terry
Paul**
DMLC 1976
Fox Lake WI



**Leah
Clark**
MLC 2011
Peoria AZ



2021 Senior Achievement Award Winners

Back row:

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

- ★ Brooks Scholarship
- ★ MLC Leading Scholar for Pastoral Ministry Studies
- ★ Student Body President Recognition

Austin Claflin (*Salem-Sturgeon Bay WI*)

- ★ MLC Leading Scholar for Pastoral Ministry Studies

Caleb Strutz (*Resurrection-Verona WI*)

- ★ MLC Leading Scholar for Pastoral Ministry Studies

Austin DeNoyer (*St. Paul-Lake Mills WI*)

- ★ Jerome Kruse Knight Award for Athletic Achievement

Joshua Thiesfeldt (*Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI*)

- ★ UMAC Knight Scholar-Athlete Leadership Award

Donovan Waegel (*St. Paul-Tomah WI*)

- ★ MLC Service Award

Jordan Massiah (*Hope-Toronto ON*)

- ★ MLC Fine Arts Award

Front row:

Sofia Spiegelberg (*Saving Grace-Mobile AL*)

- ★ MLC Via Veritas Vita Award
- ★ MLC Leading Scholar for Educational Ministry Studies

Alyssa Tessmer (*Zion-Chesaning MI*)

- ★ MLC Leading Scholar for Educational Ministry Studies

Raquel Freese (*Abiding Word-Houston*)

- ★ MLC Leading Scholar for Educational Ministry Studies

Erika Rosenbaum (*Grace-St. Joseph MI*)

- ★ UMAC Knight Scholar-Athlete Leadership Award

Emily Witkowski (*Grace-St. Joseph MI*)

- ★ Jerome Kruse Knight Award for Athletic Achievement

2020-2021 Student Recitalists

Levi Stelljes (*St. Paul-New Ulm MN*)

organ & piano

Michaela Johnson (*St. Paul-Bangor WI, pictured*)

organ

William DeMarce (*Grace-Oskaloosa IA*)

voice

Jacob Price (*St. Peter-Schofield WI*)

voice

Carl Boeder (*St. John-New Ulm MN*)

trombone & voice

Madison Leckwee (*Trinity-West Bend WI*)

voice

Derek Gulrud (*St. John-Waterloo WI*)

voice

Raquel Freese (*Abiding Word-Houston*)

voice

Ryan Kluba (*St. John-Two Rivers WI*)

voice

Maria Werre (*Peace-Sun Prairie WI*)

voice





2021 NWC Alumni Society President Grant Recipients

Twelve preseminary students received Northwestern College Alumni Society President Fund Grants. Named for the former presidents of Northwestern, the grants are awarded for excellence in various academic and student life categories.

Justin Schroeder (*Faith-Sharpsburg GA*)

★ August F. Ernst Grant for Confessional Languages (Latin)

Abel Bain (*St. Peter-Appleton WI*)

★ Robert J. Voss Grant for Student Government

Cameron Schroeder (*St. Paul-Onalaska WI*)

★ John A. Braun Grant for English

Jonas Landwehr (*Divine Savior-Doral FL*)

★ Robert J. Voss Grant for Student Life

Josiah Loersch (*St. Mark-Watertown WI*)

★ John A. Braun Grant for Leadership

Noah Melso (*Bethany-Manitowoc WI*)

★ Lewis O. Thompson Grant for Worship and Music

Jonah Schulz (*Divine Savior-Delray Beach FL*)

★ E.E. Kowalke Grant for Biblical Languages (Hebrew)

Marcus Sims (*Salem-Milwaukee*)

★ August F. Ernst Grant for Confessional Languages (German)

Seth Koelpin (*Calvary-Dallas*)

★ August F. Ernst Grant for Confessional Languages (Latin & German)

Shawn Marron (*St. Paul-New Ulm MN*)

★ E.E. Kowalke Grant for Biblical Languages (Greek)

Nathan Golisch (*St. Paul-Slinger WI*)

★ Carleton Toppe Grant for GPA and Religion

Matthew Rugen (*Grace-St. Joseph MI*)

★ Adam Martin Grant for Living Languages (Chinese)

2020-2021 Athletic Awards

FIRST TEAM ALL-REGION 2020-2021

Lisa Hoffer (*Beautiful Savior-Plymouth MN*) Softball

FIRST TEAM ALL-UMAC 2020-2021

Stephen Biebert (<i>St. John-Neillsville WI</i>)	Golf
Rebecca Krug (<i>Messiah-Green Bay WI</i>)	Soccer
Lisa Hoffer (<i>Beautiful Savior-Plymouth MN</i>)	Softball
Caleb Foelske (<i>Bethany-Manitowoc WI</i>)	Track & Field
Ryan Maertz (<i>St. Martin-Watertown SD</i>)	Track & Field
Gustav Wenz (<i>Apostles-Billings MT</i>)	Track & Field
Janae Jensen (<i>St. John-Juneau WI</i>)	Track & Field
Madelyn Plitzuweit (<i>St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI</i>)	Track & Field

New MLC Records

Austin DeNoyer (*St. Paul-Lake Mills WI*)

- Career rushing: 2,948 yards
- Single-season rushing: 1,358 yards
- Yards-per-game average: 117.9

Elena Hoffman (*St. Martin-Watertown SD*)

- Career home runs: 17

Emily Witkowski (*Grace-St. Joseph MI*)

- Points in a single game: 37
- 1,000 Point Club

Our College: THE FIRST

1995



A CITY SET ON A HILL

Martin Luther College (MLC) was established in 1995 when Northwestern College (1865-1995) of Watertown, Wisconsin, and Dr. Martin Luther College (1884-1995) of New Ulm, Minnesota, combined in New Ulm. The first year of amalgamation brought challenges and opportunities. The administrative, academic, and social landscapes were uncharted, raising concerns. But for the first time, WELS pastors, teachers, and staff ministers would learn, live, and grow together, developing mutual respect and understanding—lifelong bonds that would enhance their future ministry partnerships. In 1995, as now, MLC was an exciting place to be. Although no one knew what the future would hold, everyone was dedicated to a common mission: to share the eternal hope found only in Christ.



SOMETHING NEW

MLC's first year brought together two colleges with different student bodies, histories, and traditions. Northwestern College (NWC) provided preseminary education for pastors, while Dr. Martin Luther College (DMLC) trained teachers for synod schools. The first MLC student body was encouraged to leave their former schools behind, to unite and create something new. Understandably, it was not always easy for students to look past a combined 241 years of heritage, but they made the transition, and today they enjoy a rich mix of customs from before and after 1995. *Pictured:* Students from each school get to know their fellow Knights at the Lamplighter in New Ulm.

1996



BLACK RED WHITE, FIGHT!

Many cheerleading groups sprang up in MLC's first year. By the end of the 90s, two remained. The Knights Cheerleaders (*pictured*) led cheers in the most traditional sense, boosting spirits with intricate floor routines and colorful pom-poms. The KNOBZ, a group of five guys with colorful personalities, were less traditional but nonetheless inspiring. They were later replaced by the Male Cheerleaders, whose skits included students, faculty members, and even referees, giving MLC a home court advantage not seen anywhere else in the NCAA. *Pictured:* Sarah Musgrave, Paula Carter, Kristine Heins, Kristi Stueber, Sherri Sukow, Amy Knuruowski

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 7

Knight's Page, the college's first on-campus newspaper, included editorials, features, poetry, restaurant reviews, and sports updates submitted by students. Students' strong thoughts and emotions from MLC's formative years are spread across its pages—and so is their humor.



25 YEARS OF MLC

By Phil Balge '21 (St. Paul-New Ulm MN)

1997



THE FLOOD OF '97

College administration cancelled classes in the spring of 1997, allowing volunteers from MLC to sandbag a swelling Minnesota River. Heavy snowfall and extreme temperatures contributed to the flooding, which brought damage to New Ulm's "Goosetown" district.

STUDY TOURS

Along the way to full-time ministry, many students participate in cross-cultural experiences. In 1997, students observed zebra migrations in Africa, worked on their Spanish in Mexico, explored marine ecology in Jamaica, and studied the literature, culture, and landscape of Britain. Along their way, Susie (Kuckhahn) Jaeger, Micki Ross, Sarah (Musgrave) Bilitz, and Jenise (Seehaver) Nolte enjoyed a stop at Stonehenge (*pictured*).



1998

CRAZY FOR YOU

1998's musical featured Adrian Smith (now a professor at MLC) as Bobby Child, Lisa Oakes as Polly Baker, and Jon Bergemann as Bela Zangler. Both NWC and DMLC had sustained strong theater traditions for about a century. The new college retained NWC's drama club name, Forum, and put shows on for eager audiences every year—including virtual productions during the COVID-19 pandemic.



HALFTIME ENTERTAINMENT

Before officially becoming Knights, first-years sang songs and led the crowd in a cheer at the 1998 Homecoming game. Each is sporting a Knights shield, homemade with felt and worn throughout Homecoming week.



1999



LUTHER MANOR

In MLC's early years, students could apply to live in Luther Manor, a former retirement home sold to MLC for use as a dorm. Pictured in the RA room are (*front*) Patrick Downey, Paul Grubbs, and Amanda (Klug) Humann; and (*back*) Jenise (Seehaver) Nolte, Michelle (Forbrook) Grubbs, and Sarah (Heidtke) Forte.



GAME AT 11 PM

Intramural offerings at MLC in the 90s included volleyball, basketball, field hockey, and indoor soccer. The 1999 indoor soccer champions are seen here. Historically, over 60% of MLC students participate in intramurals and 30% in intercollegiate sports.

Our College: THE FIRST

2000



A PERFECT 10

Teams of students performed routines in the synchronized swimming competition at Homecoming 2000. The New Ulm Recreation Center hosted the event, which involved swimmers from each residence hall, a panel of student judges, and an overall good time.

KNIGHTS HOOPS

Coach Jim Unke (*far right*), pictured here with the 2000-01 men's basketball team, led the men's basketball program from 1997 to 2016, picking up 164 wins. He was both the commissioner of the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) and MLC's athletic director from 1997 to 2008, and he continues to serve as athletic director today. MLC offers 16 intercollegiate sports, and many MLC athletes go on to serve as coaches in WELS schools all over the country.



2001

BREAK A LEG—OR JUST TAKE A BREAK

Pictured: Paul Horn takes a break from his Greek homework. Preseminary students at MLC continue the same language regimen they had at NWC: four years of Greek and two years of Hebrew to support text study at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin. Many also study Latin, German, and Spanish.



2002

THE ROAD TO NATIONALS

A mix of experienced upperclassmen and talented underclassmen brought the 2002 men's soccer team to the NAIA national tournament at Bowling Green, Kentucky. Coming off a thrilling shootout win at the regional finals, MLC fell to defending national champion Lindsey Wilson College. *Pictured:* Mike Novotny shields the ball from a Lindsey Wilson opponent.



8X CHAMPIONS

In other 2002 sports news, the men's cross country team won the UMAC for the fifth year in a row under Coach Chuck Hussman. And they did not slow down. The Knights earned the conference title each year from 1998 to 2005. Students come to New Ulm to become teachers, staff ministers, and pastors. Sometimes they leave with hardware.

ENROLLMENT PEAKS

Undergraduate enrollment at MLC peaked in the fall of 2002 with 1,063 students. As student housing reached capacity, many opted to live off campus. Chapel services, held at the auditorium, broke capacity, highlighting the need for expanded facilities.

25 YEARS OF MLC

2003



REPRESENT, INFORM, LEAD

The MLC Student Senate is an elected body that organizes student events, funds student clubs, and represents the student body on and off campus. Like today's Senate, the 2003-2004 Senate was responsible for several campus staples, including (the first) Swine Sizzler, Arbor Day, and the talent shows. Behind the scenes, Senate interacts with college administration and New Ulm to speak for student interests.



FOR POSTERITY

The official MLC yearbook, *Shield*, was published from 1996 to 2006. Most faces found in the *Shield* now serve in classrooms and congregations in the United States and overseas. Some find other ways to serve. All were once gathered around God's Word at MLC.



Our College: THE FIRST

2004



BOO BRODIE

Boo Brodie was a student-run, on-campus comedy talk show hosted by Brian Schuessler (Boo) and Mark Parsons (Brodie). The show aired on New Ulm public access TV and featured funny videos, live skits, poetry contests, and student and faculty guests every Friday night. In 2004, the hosts interviewed WELS President Karl Gurgel (pictured).



COLLEGE CHOIR

The MLC College Choir goes on tour every spring break, sharing the gospel in song and fostering fellowship around the synod. In 2004, the choir stopped at the newly founded Rocky Mountain Lutheran High School near Denver, where they sang with the student body.

2005

PROFESSORS IN PINSTripES

At the May Commencement Concert, musical groups display their God-given talents the night before the Graduation and Call Services. In even years, the concert features sacred music; in odd years, secular. In 2005, some faculty men got in on the fun.



THE MLC GOLF CLASSIC

New Ulm loves MLC. The MLC Golf Classic is a ready example of the strong connection between college and town. Since its beginning in 1993, Golf Classic participants have donated over \$800,000 to the college for campus improvements and student assistance. Beyond the Golf Classic, New Ulm has consistently supported MLC with student jobs at local businesses, spiritual support at local congregations, and a contagious civic energy and pride. MLC loves New Ulm.



MY GOD IS MY ROCK

Responding to Hurricane Katrina destruction, Team SOAR (Standing on a Rock) traveled to New Orleans to help with cleanup efforts and offer spiritual encouragement to those they served. "As we drive back to our house we discuss the events of the day, swapping stories. Replaying the day in our mind, we pray that God be with the family whose house we just finished. We thank God for giving us this opportunity to serve." – The SOAR online blog

25 YEARS OF MLC

2006

CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Every spring, Forum invites over 5,000 area elementary school students to campus for a Children's Theatre production. In 2006 *The Golden Goose* played to at-capacity crowds from over 50 schools across three days. MLC students seek to develop productions that both appeal to area educators and entertain their young students. *Pictured:* Kaitlyn Schumacher greets a guest on his way to the show.



GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

At MLC's Evangelism Day, speakers from around the nation come to campus to speak about various gospel ministries. The first Evangelism Day in 2006 included topics such as *Starting Spiritual Conversations*, *Biblical Leadership*,



and *Welcoming People to our Churches and Schools*. Then and now, Evangelism Day has provided useful perspectives on evangelism in a variety of settings—perfect for students who will be sent into a variety of settings.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE

Around 2006, Dan Lewig (*right*) MLC's student sports information director, approached New Ulm's local radio station, KNUJ, about starting a weekly show covering MLC sports. Following its success, friends Claire Natsis (*left*) and Joel Cordes (*center*) joined Lewig to start their "Average Joe Sports Show," covering national sports from a local perspective. Using his KNUJ press credentials, Lewig conducted one-on-one interviews with the likes of LaDainian Tomlinson, Drew Brees, and Bob Uecker. "First, you don't have to give up your hobbies to become a pastor," he said. "Also, you don't know the answers to the 'what-if' questions until you ask them."



2007

PRESIDENT TED OLSEN

Rev. Theodore Olsen served as president of MLC from its beginning until 2007. Olsen oversaw the union of two very different academic cultures, important curriculum changes, and the expansion of ministry activities for students. His independent spirit rooted in the Christian faith and his love for ministerial education led the college through its crucial early years. He entered glory in 2015.



PRESIDENT MARK ZARLING

Remembered fondly for his strong spiritual leadership and his chapel "Letters from Home," Rev. Mark Zarling was installed as college president in 2007 and retired in 2020. During his tenure, he launched two capital campaigns and led MLC through two strategic plans, a master site plan, and a master staffing plan. MLC's facilities, programs, and vision all expanded during his tenure. A man of faith, a humble visionary, and a careful administrator, Pres. Zarling (*pictured*) was also a servant leader. Incoming first-years from 2007 to 2020 may have memories of the president moving them into their first college dormitory.

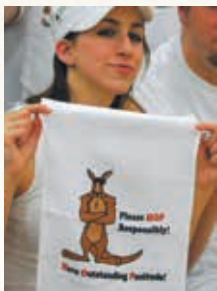


Our College: THE FIRST

2007

THE 'ROO CREW

Any survey of the 2000s at MLC would not be complete without mention of the 'Roo Crew. During this time an inflatable kangaroo hopped its way into the hearts of an inspired student section, and Knight Nation was never the same again. The 'Roo Crew that supported the unofficial mascot produced shirts, a fight song, skits, and towels—all of which added to the kangaroo's legend and carried MLC athletics to many victories.



2008



DAYLIGHT INTERNATIONAL

In 2007-2008, Rachel Kionka taught in Zomba, Malawi, the first MLC graduate to teach in that country. She joined an increasing number of students and graduates who opt for international service before accepting an assignment. Students serve on five different continents, with the majority teaching in Southeast Asia.

GRADUATE PROGRAM

MLC's first master's graduates were recognized at the May 2008 graduation, a milestone for MLC's Graduate Studies program and a landmark in the history of MLC. Aaron Hartwig (*left*) was the first to enroll, and Brett Kriese (*right*) was the first to finish the program. Both graduated with a Master of Science in Education. In 2020-21, MLC enrolled 146 graduate students across three programs (MS Education, MS Educational Administration, and MA Theological Studies).



2009

KEEP THE BALL ROLLING

MLC's premier soccer pitch had been a long time coming. "We now have a state-of-the-art facility that is as good as any in our league," said Athletic Director Jim Unke at the dedication. "I think this shows that we take athletics seriously at MLC, and we're proud to have this kind of field for our soccer programs."



SWINE SIZZLER

The Swine Sizzler is an end-of-year picnic hosted by the Student Senate since 2004. It's featured student bands, faculty dunk tanks, inflatable obstacle courses, egg tosses, and pig roasts over the years. *Pictured:* The band Concord Hall, with Caleb Schmiede (*left*) and Ethan Schultz (*BLC*), headlined Swine Sizzler 2009.

25 YEARS OF MLC

2010

FUN RUN

Julius Buelow served as the official “Sprinter” at the first annual Sprinter Campus Fun Run held at Homecoming 2010. The *Sprinter* statue, gifted to Northwestern College in 1912 by St. Matthew-Milwaukee, was a symbol of Northwestern campus life. At amalgamation, leadership considered moving and insurance costs and decided to keep the statue at Northwestern, renamed Luther Preparatory School. “This policy,” said an NWC student writer, “moved Northwestern students to take the *Sprinter* hostage with the plea to move it to New Ulm. After admonishment, the *Sprinter*’s whereabouts were revealed.” Today, the statue rests outside the MLC Luther Student Center, still toeing its mark after 100+ years.



2011

A NIGHT ON THE TOWN

Anchor is a student-led service organization focused on serving Christ, the community, and the campus. Throughout the year, the group hosts events like 2011’s Masquerade Night to raise money for good causes.



EARLY FIELD EXPERIENCE (EFE)

During the March EFE week, first-year education majors receive their first real teaching experience. Presentations from area educators, practice with lesson planning and classroom management, and teaching local grade school children bring the teaching ministry to life. The week is the first of several EFEs education majors complete before graduation.

2012



THE BROTHERS

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) students come to New Ulm each year for a hockey match against MLC. It’s one of many WLS efforts to connect with MLC students enrolled in SPaM (Studies in Pastoral Ministry). Other connections include softball tournaments, campus visits and presentations, and two special events: In February, MLC juniors are invited to the seminary for *Mission and Ministry* seminars, and in March, seniors are invited to an early welcome called *Eisodos*. Pictured: Voss brothers Aaron ’11, Mark ’13, and Joel ’08 settle some sibling rivalries at the 2012 match.



Our College: THE FIRST

2012

MANDARIN PROGRAM

Thanks to a generous grant from the Antioch II Foundation, Tinting Zhang (pictured) began teaching Chinese language and culture courses at MLC. Upon her move from China, she wrote, "Three years ago, God used Christian teachers as tools to find me, his lost lamb. Therefore, half a year ago when I got accepted to MLC, I was thinking maybe God wanted me to be his tool to help future Christian teachers. You will never know what mission or path God arranges for you until you truly get there." Following the successful pilot program, Tinting accepted the call to be a professor in 2014.



KNIGHT NATION

The women's basketball team won the 2012 UMAC regular season championship for the first time in program history and followed it up with a postseason tournament win for the first time since the 2005-2006 season. The tournament win qualified the team for the NCAA Division III tournament, a first for any MLC team since the UMAC became an NCAA member in 2008.



2013



LET THE CHILDREN COME

In 2013 MLC dedicated its new Early Childhood Learning Center with room to educate and care for nearly 100 children ages 0-5. With early childhood ministries booming in WELS, here MLC early childhood majors could receive the best possible professional training. "We get to teach these children about Jesus' love for them," Professor Jennifer Mehlberg said. "We get to show parents how to start praying and ways to read Bible stories with their children. We build these relationships and then invite them to our church to learn more about Christ's saving work for us."

JOY TO THE WORLD

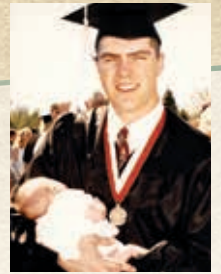
MLC's Christmas concert, held in Chapel of the Christ, is a winter highlight on campus. Scripture-filled music from four student choirs, the Wind Symphony, and the Hosanna Ringers help prepare hearts and minds for the birth of the Savior. *Pictured:* Professor Grace Hennig directs the mass choir in 2013.



2014

THE NEXT GENERATION

Cassandra Doering was just a few weeks old when her dad, Matthew Doering '96, walked at MLC's first graduation. In 2014, Cassie entered MLC as a first-year and became the college's first second-generation student.



URBAN MINISTRY

In the early 1990s, Milwaukee became the pilot city of the Parental Choice Program, allowing parents to choose WELS and other private schools for their children at no cost. Since then, enrollment at central city schools has exploded. Striving to meet the demand, MLC began exploring urban education ministry in 2006 and worked with existing programs in Milwaukee to prepare teachers like Katrina Buchholz '14, who were eager to serve in urban schools. In 2014 MLC called Ben Clemons as the first urban ministry professor and approved an urban education ministry minor.

25 YEARS OF MLC

2015



CARIBBEAN CONNECTIONS

Joycelyn Christmas-John, Tassia-Channel Clement, Ron Pile, and Evodia Cassius-Noel came to MLC through the Caribbean Christian Training Institute. They finished their college educations at MLC and then went back to teach in Antigua, St. Lucia, and Grenada. In 2015, Joycelyn said, “When I get back to Antigua, I’m going to try to be an example to my coworkers. My whole take on life—the purpose of us being on earth—is to spread God’s Word and lift each other up. What else counts?” *Pictured:* The four students prepare a meal for Caribbean Night in the Caf, an event sponsored by the International Services Office for International Education Week.



2016

AN ETERNAL FLAME

The Homecoming and Winter Carnival talent shows are perennial highlights of student life. Unique talents shine, and students get to poke fun at themselves and campus culture through videos and live skits. Homecoming 2016 hosts Aaron Markgraf and Eric Uher emceed the 2016 talent show under an Olympic theme, with Markgraf carrying the Olympic torch to its final destination on the MLC stage. During the pandemic, the 2020 talent show was held outdoors to ensure proper distancing protocols.



¡HOLA! CÓMO ESTÁS?

MLC’s Spanish immersion program develops Spanish proficiency in students and allows them to experience a Latino culture. Spanish majors and minors participate, along with other MLC students, WLC and BLC students, current pastors and teachers, and anyone interested in improving their Spanish. Participants like this 2016 group (*pictured*) spend five weeks in a Spanish-speaking South American country like Argentina, speaking only Spanish, attending class, and experiencing life and culture.

ALL-AMERICAN

In 2016, Todd Brassow became the first MLC student-athlete to be named an NCAA All-American after finishing seventh in the high jump at the Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Waverly, Iowa. He also reached the 2015 nationals in high jump, finishing ninth.

Our College: THE FIRST

2017

ARBOR DAY

The Arbor Day cleanup is one of MLC's longest-running traditions, appearing on the DMLC and NWC campuses in the late 1800s. The student body splits into groups to spruce up campus, New Ulm city parks, and the homes of professors and the homebound. A morning of work is followed by a tree planting ceremony, live music, softball, and relaxation. *Pictured: Haley Johnson, Megan Lemke, and Grace Schultz.*



REFORMATION 500

On November 1, 2017, MLC recognized the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation with a festival service, lectures, Bible studies, *InFocus* essays, art contests, and a screening of *A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy*, which featured Prof. Paul Koelpin and Professors Emeriti Daniel Deutschlander and Arnold Koelpin. Paul Koelpin also appeared in *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World*, featured on PBS. Both films were produced by Boettcher + Trinklein, Inc.



2018

BINGO NIGHT

The MLC Ladies' Auxiliary exists to support and enhance student life at the college. The group has funded on-campus projects for more than 50 years, and recent years have seen them sponsor the highly anticipated Bingo Night in a jam-packed cafeteria each winter.



COMEBACK KIDS

Improving from a 0-9 season in 2016, the Knights football team completed an undefeated conference season in 2018, earning the UMAC title and the team's first-ever automatic qualifying bid to the NCAA Division III Championship tournament. The incredible turnaround under Coach Mark Stein was noted in local and state news outlets. In playoffs, MLC fell in the first round to Division III powerhouse St. John's University at Collegeville, Minnesota. MLC secured its second consecutive UMAC title in 2019 with another perfect conference record.



2019

BROOMBALL

Inter-class broomball, with matches held on ice rinks at nearby Harman Park, is a favorite Winter Carnival activity. MLC neighbor Hermann the German gets to watch from the nosebleeds.



NOW THE DAY IS OVER

Compline services are held each Monday night in the chapel. With origins as an early Christian worship service at the end of the day, the MLC service uses chant-like liturgy,

comforting hymns, and prayer to help students focus their week on Christ. Compline is one of 11 services held each week. Students visit local congregations for weekend worship.

25 YEARS OF MLC



EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES

In 2019, MLC launched the Equipping Christian Witnesses capital campaign, focusing on recruitment, financial aid, and facilities. The Betty Kohn Fieldhouse was funded in 2020, and a residence hall tentatively called Luther Heights is gaining funding. Luther Heights (rendered) will overlook Summit Avenue and provide suite-style student housing.



Many thanks to Phil Balge, who put in countless hours searching MLC publications, reaching out to alumni, curating photos, and writing compelling captions for this brief history.

COVID-19 delayed our publication, but we hope you enjoy it just the same.

- Editor

2020

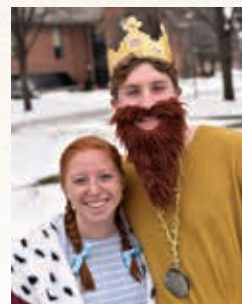
CALL DAY

The WELS Conference of Presidents assigns teaching and staff ministry candidates to their first congregations and schools each May. The assignments are reported at the Call Service, which has yielded some great candid photos over the years. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic moved the Call Service online, but reactions were no different. *Pictured:* At home, Moriah Hackbarth learns of her assignment to teach math at Nebraska LHS.



HUZZAH! 'TIS BURGER NIGHT!

The Ugliest Man on Campus (UMOC) contest is a test of creativity and wit with origins at Northwestern College. Resurfacing at MLC in the 2010s, UMOC has contestants assume an alter ego to win support during Winter Carnival week. In 2020, junior Mark Burger ran the winning campaign as the Burger King. A mock marriage to "Wendy," played by Courtney Ritter, capped off a week of trademarked antics.



PRESIDENT RICH GURGEL



In 2020, Rev. Dr. Richard Gurgel was installed as MLC's third president, right in the middle of a pandemic. He wrote: "Without claiming that we have the perfect worker training system in the WELS, we have many reasons to give thanks for the careful and thorough training we expect that the next generation of our pastors, teachers, and staff ministers will receive. Since almost every future called worker in our synod is part of the MLC family at some point, MLC is a pivotal part of maintaining that careful and thorough training. A rich heritage has been handed down to us, and now is our time to pass that on to others."



OUR NAMESAKE

At the birth of Martin Luther College in 1995, the Northwestern College Board of Control gifted MLC a statue of Martin Luther, the reformer whose study of the Bible led him to recover the gospel of grace through Christ. Similar statues stand on the campuses of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Luther Preparatory School, and Michigan Lutheran Seminary. On the base are quotations of Luther—words that guide our Christian lives, words that will continue to guide this college for years to come: "Therefore, he who would correctly and profitably read Scripture should see to it that he finds Christ in it; then he finds life eternal without fail."

COMMENCEMENT 2021

On Saturday, May 15, 2021, 170 students earned degrees marking the completion of their ministerial training at Martin Luther College.

- 32** Bachelor of Arts (preseminary)
- 110** Bachelor of Science in Education
- 9** Bachelor of Science
- 2** Seminary Certification
- 1** Staff Ministry Certification
- 10** Master of Science in Education
- 5** Master of Science in Educational Administration
- 1** Master of Arts in Theological Studies

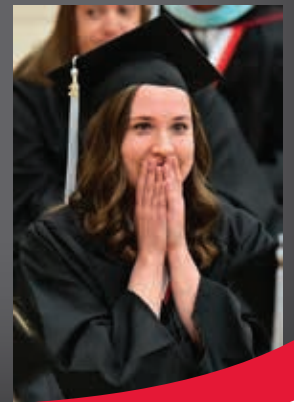
Professor James Pope served as presiding minister. President Rich Gurgel preached the sermon on the theme, “You Are Servants by and of Boundless Grace.” Vice President Jeff Wiechman (pictured right) assisted with the distribution of diplomas.

The sermon text chosen by the class, Ephesians 3:7-9, states: “I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.”



2021 Assignments Announced

Following the Commencement worship service, WELS President Mark Schroeder announced the assignments. We sent 168 graduates (including some from past years) to early childhood ministries, elementary and high schools, and staff ministries. As seen on the faces of **Christian Monday** and **Raquel Freese** (pictured), the graduates are excited, surprised, joyful—and ready.



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

Another First in Graduate Studies

MLC awarded its first Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree to **Brandon Steenbock** MLC '06, '21.

A staff minister at St. Mark-De Pere WI, Steenbock wrote a thesis titled “Do Cyborgs Have Hope? Transhumanism, Technology, and the Incarnation of Christ.” **Dr. Keith Wessel** NWC '87, WLS '91 directed the thesis, and **Dr. Mark Paustian** NWC '84, WLS '89 and **Dr. Ryan MacPherson** (Bethany Lutheran College) served as readers.

The MA-Theological Studies program is designed primarily for ministry-certified teachers and staff ministers who desire advanced studies in Scripture, doctrine, church history, and ministry.



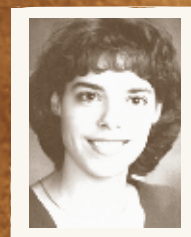
Allen Krause
DMLC 1966
Milwaukee



Katie Harris
MLC 2006
Boise ID



Robert Meister
NWC 1971
Denver CO



Cindy Kom
MLC 1996
Canistota SD

MLC AND WLS GRADUATES

Assigned to Your District

ARIZONA-CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Austin DeNoyer (Lake Mills WI) to **California LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor, assistant AD (one-year assignment)

Callahan Diersen (New Ulm MN) to **California LHS**: science, technology, calculus

Halley Engelbrecht (Rockland WI) to **California LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor (one-year assignment)

Nathanael Jensen (Ixonia WI) to **Cross of Christ LC-Las Cruces NM**: pastor

Chantell Kolander (Saint Charles MN) to **East Fork LS-Whiteriver AZ**: gr 7 (reassigned for second year)

Evan Kolander (Menomonee Falls WI) to **East Fork LHS**: social studies (reassigned for second year)

Nathanael Lindloff (Lansing MI) to **California LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor (one-year assignment)

Caroline Madson (Acworth GA) to **East Fork LS-Whiteriver AZ**: gr 3 (assignment made permanent)

Mattison Martindale (Davison MI) to **Shepherd LS-Albuquerque NM**: gr 3-5

Christopher Pflughoeft (Germantown WI) to **Emmanuel LC-Tempe AZ**: graduate associate to president of Arizona-California District

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

Mykenna Schneiter (Fond du Lac WI) to **Arizona LA**: technology, science, coaching

Samantha Schoch (Vanderbilt MI) to **California LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor (one-year assignment)

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

Alexander Stoeberl (Franklin WI) to **Mt. Calvary LS-Redding CA**: gr 6-8 (one-year reassignment)

Tyler Wahl (Holmen WI) to **St. Mark LS-Citrus Heights CA**: gr 5-6, coaching (one-year assignment)

DAKOTA-MONTANA DISTRICT

Emily Brand (Anoka MN) to **Little Lambs PS-Mandan ND**: ECE Director Training Program

Rebecca Doering (Lake Mills WI) to **Great Plains LHS**: dormitory supervisor, mathematics (reassigned for second year)

Aimee Duncan (Mechanicville NY) to **Trinity LS-Aberdeen SD**: gr 5-6 (one-year assignment)

Michael Starr (Bay City MI) to **Great Plains LHS**: dorm supervisor, geography, religion (one-year assignment)

Jordan Uhlhorn (Scottsdale AZ) to **Ascension LC-Moorhead MN / St. Paul LC-Valley City ND**: pastor

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Benjamin Balge (Milwaukee) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Martha Balge (New Ulm MN) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Shannon Eggers (West Bend WI) to **Michigan LHS**: music (assignment made permanent)

Matthew Fisher (Madison WI) to **Cross of Glory LS-Washington MI**: gr 5-8 (one-year assignment)

Taylor Glowicki (Jordan MN) to **Crown of Life LS-Warren MI**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Rachel Goddard (Saginaw MI) to **Peace LS-Livonia MI**: ECE

Brittany Jensen (Ixonia WI) to **Trinity LS-Jenera OH**: gr 1-2

Jessica Kluball (Beaver Dam WI) to **Beautiful Savior LS-Grove City OH**: gr 1-2 (one-year assignment)

Justus Kupsky (Manitowoc WI) to **St. John LS-Saginaw MI**: gr 5-8 (one-year assignment)

Julie Marker (Vassar MI) to **Peace LS-Granger IN**: PS, K

Jacob Mathena (Covington GA) to **Michigan LHS**: dorm supervisor, social studies, English (one-year assignment)

Elena Mueller (Doral FL) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: Spanish (one-year assignment)

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

Ida Paulsen (Manhattan KS) to **Trinity LS-Bay City MI**: ECE (reassigned for second year)

Emily Rider (Las Vegas) to **Michigan LHS**: dorm supervisor, mathematics (one-year assignment)

Jesse Rider (Gibbon MN) to **St. Paul LS-South Haven MI**: coaching, social studies (one-year assignment)

Caleb Schaeve (Bay City MI) to **Shepherd of the Lakes LC-Linden MI**: pastor

Wade Schult (Hudson WI) to **Huron Valley LHS**: technology, mathematics, coaching

Brittany Steinfeldt (Chesaning MI) to **St. Paul-Columbus OH**: gr 1-2 (one-year assignment)

Matthew Steinfeldt (Dakota MN) to **Beautiful Savior LC-Grove City OH**: pastor

Christian Stoeberl (Franklin WI) to **Peace LS-Livonia MI**: gr 7-8 (one-year assignment)

Matthew Swanson (Rochester MN) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Lailah Thabatah (Lansing MI) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Joshua Thiesfeldt (Fond du Lac WI) to **Crown of Life LS-Warren MI**: gr 5-8, Principal Training Program



David Rosenow
NWC 1976
Prescott WI



Michelle Ross
MLC 2001
Nicollet MN



Wesley Towne
MLC 2016
Bay City MI



Yvonda Beaudin
DMLC 1986
Racine WI

MLC AND WLS GRADUATES

MINNESOTA DISTRICT

Lydia Bitter (Bemidji MN) to **St. John LS-Red Wing MN**: gr 6-8 (one-year assignment)

Jennifer Boeder (La Crosse WI) to **St. Peter LS-St. Peter MN**: gr 2-3, organ, choir (reassigned for second year)

Lucas Callies (Mayville WI) to **Good Shepherd LC-Cedar Rapids/North Liberty IA**: associate pastor

Brittany Denn (New Ulm MN) to **Mt. Olive LS-Mankato MN**: gr 3 (one-year assignment)

Noelle Dimke (Henderson CO) to **Jesus Loves Me Learning Center-North Mankato MN**: ECE (reassigned for second year)

Samuel Evans (South Lyon MI) to **Petra LS-Sauk Rapids MN**: upper grades (one-year assignment)

Jodi Halvorson (Baraboo WI) to **Cornerstone Early Learning Center-Hugo MN**: ECE

Brad Hengeveld (Lomira WI) to **St. John LS-Dakota MN**: gr 5-6, activities director

Dayne Kopfer (Columbus WI) to **Trinity LS-Belle Plaine MN**: gr 7-8 (one-year assignment)

Heidi Kostrzewa (Wauwatosa WI) to **Salem LS-Stillwater MN**: gr 2 (assignment made permanent)

Mercedes Kuil (York NE) to **Jesus Loves Me Learning Center-Mankato MN**: ECE (one-year assignment)

Adam Marley (Watertown WI) to **Our Savior LC-Kasson MN**: pastor

Dominic Olson (Inver Grove Heights MN) to **Resurrection & Life LC-Rochester MN**: associate pastor

Abby Plocher (New Ulm MN) to **St. Croix LA**: gr 6-8 (assignment made permanent)

Gabriel Plocher (Vassar MI) to **St. Croix LA**: upper-level mathematics

Philip Schroeder (Chula Vista CA) to **Martin Luther College**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Orie Thomford (Chesaning MI) to **Martin Luther College**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Megan Willick (Benton Harbor MI) to **Little Lambs Learning Center-Danube MN**: ECE

Jamee Wohling (Beaver Dam WI) to **St. Croix LA**: dorm supervisor, band (one-year assignment)

NEBRASKA DISTRICT

Christopher Beagle (Winona MN) to **Nebraska LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor (assignment made permanent)

Anastasia Bornschlegel (Rochester MN) to **Zion LS-Valentine NE**: K-3

Seth Krueger (Lake Orion MI) to **Mt. Olive LC-Overland Park KS**: associate pastor

Sarah Krueger (Germantown WI) to **Mt. Olive LS-Overland Park KS**: gr 5-8

Christian Monday (Cincinnati) to **Zion LS-Denver**: gr 3-5, Principal Training Program

Madeline Monday (Mesa AZ) to **Zion LS-Denver**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Caleb Paul (Bennett CO) to **Nebraska LHS**: dorm supervisor, Spanish (one-year assignment)

Rylee Quandt (New Ulm MN) to **Our Precious Lambs PS-Omaha NE**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

NORTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

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

Jonathan Kock (Johnson City TN) to **St. Paul LC-Ottawa, Canada**: graduate associate to president of WELS-Canada

Jonathan Lehmann (Janesville WI) to **Christ LC-Clarksville MD**: pastor

Alyssa Tessmer (Chesaning MI) to **Divine Peace LS-Largo MD**: gr 2-4

Timothy Walsh (Dunedin FL) to **Grace of God LC-Dix Hills NY (mission restart)**: pastor

Lydia Wilde (March Rapids WI) to **Grace Christian Academy-Falls Church VA**: K

NORTHERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

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

Jacob Bohlmann (Crete IL) to **St. Paul LS-Algoma WI**: gr 6-8 (one-year assignment)

Chloe Doble (Ortonville MI) to **Peace LS-Green Lake WI**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Elijah Ehlert (Black Creek WI) to **St. Paul LC-North Fond du Lac WI**: associate pastor

Katie Lindemann (Valders WI) to **Zion LS-Egg Harbor WI**: gr 1-4 (one-year assignment)

Emily Livieri (Germantown WI) to **Trinity LS-Kaukauna WI**: ECE director apprentice (assignment made permanent)

Ella Loersch (Onalaska WI) to **St. John LS-Peshtigo WI**: gr 3-5 (assignment made permanent)

Martin Loescher (Jackson WI) to **Martin Luther LC-Neenah WI**: associate pastor

Natasha Oblender (Aurora NE) to **Zion LS-Rhineland WI**: K

Noah Panzer (Marshfield WI) to **Trinity LS-Kiel WI**: gr 5-6, activities director, Principal Training Program

Moriah Poehlman (De Pere WI) to **Martin Luther LS-Oshkosh WI**: gr 2 (one-year assignment)

Alexander Quist (St. Peter MN) to **Winnebago LA**: history, religion, coaching (one-year assignment)

Caleb Rothfuss (Bay City MI) to **St. Paul LC-Clintonville WI**: pastor

Adrianna Sayles (Grand Blanc MI) to **St. Paul LS-Green Bay WI**: gr 3, Spanish (one-year assignment)

Jeni Schleef (Mequon WI) to **Neenah LS-Neenah WI**: gr 6, Spanish (reassigned for second year)



William Mayhew
NWC 1986
Valentine NE



Sara Pedde
MLC 2006
Florence SC



Jeffrey Samelson
MLC 1996
Libertyville IL



Beth Lohmiller
DMLC 1981
Henry SD

Assigned to Your District

Zachary Semmann (Grafton WI) to **St. Peter LC-Eldorado WI**: pastor

Donovan Waege (Tomah WI) to **Christ LS-Eagle River WI**: gr 5-8 (one-year assignment)

Bryan Walkley (Onalaska WI) to **Bethany LS-Manitowoc WI**: gr 7 (one-year assignment)

Leah Wolfrath (Kaukauna WI) to **First German LS-Manitowoc WI**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Sarah Hughes (Watertown WI) to **Little Lambs of Peace PS-Eagle River AK**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Emily Muir (Watertown WI) to **Evergreen LHS**: English, coaching (assignment made permanent)

Erich Neumann (Adrian MI) to **Calvary LC-Bellevue WA**: pastor

Erika Rosenbaum (Saint Joseph MI) to **St. Matthew LS-Spokane WA**: gr 1-2, athletic director, coaching

Katelyn Schwartz (Bremerton WA) to **Faith LS-Tacoma WA**: ECE

Emma Turriff (Arlington TN) to **Calvary Lutheran PS & K-Bellevue WA**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Vincent West-Hallwas (Beach Park IL) to **Christ the King LS-Bremerton WA**: gr 5-6, Principal Training Program (assignment made permanent)

SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Kati Aguilar (Wildomar CA) to **Growing in Grace PS-Spring Hill FL**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Emily Ash (Sturgeon Bay WI) to **Christ the King School-Palm Coast FL**: gr 2

Matthew Baehman (Neenah WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Delray Beach FL**: gr 3-4 (one-year assignment)

Crystal Carmichael (Shakopee MN) to **Good Shepherd LA-Deltona FL**: gr 4-8, departmentalized science/mathematics

Rachel Christie (Mequon WI) to **St. Paul LS-Beverly Hills FL**: gr 2 (one-year assignment)

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

William DeMarce (Memphis MO) to **Divine Savior Academy-Doral FL**: middle & high school music, choir

Risa Fellers (Monroe NC) to **Crown of Life LS-Fort Myers FL**: gr 1-2

Rebecca Heyer (Greenville WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Doral FL**: middle grades mathematics & science

Benjamin Mahnke (Onalaska WI) to **Abiding Love LC-Cape Coral FL**: staff minister

Andrew Mantz (West Bend WI) to **Christ the King School-Palm Coast FL**: gr 5, Principal Training Program

Luke Miller (Indianapolis) to **Abiding Hope LC-Ocala FL**: pastor

Abigail Turman (Omaha NE) to **Divine Savior Academy-Delray Beach FL**: gr 1

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

Luke Willems (Johnson Creek WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Doral FL**: lower level science

Joshua Wong (New Ulm MN) to **Risen Savior Christian Academy-Pooler GA**: gr 7-8

Bethany Wu (Winona MN) to **Abiding Love PS-Cape Coral FL**: ECE lead teacher

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Alec Bergmann (Slinger WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Sienna Plantation TX**: gr 5, Principal Training Program (assignment made permanent)

Kendra Bergmann (Slinger WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Sienna Plantation TX**: K (assignment made permanent)

Raquel Freese (Spring TX) to **Abiding Word LS-Houston**: gr 4

Anna Gartner (Hortonville WI) to **Abiding Word LS-Houston**: gr 3-4 (one-year assignment)

Isabella Robinson (Greendale WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Santa Rita Ranch TX**: gr 5-6 (one-year assignment)

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

Hans Thomford (Chesaning MI) to **New Mission-Amarillo TX**: pastor

Andrew Westra (Columbia TN) to **New Mission-Waco TX**: pastor

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Brooke Behl (Mukwonago WI) to **St. John LS-Libertyville IL**: gr 3-4

Zachary Bork (San Jose) to **Salem LS-Milwaukee**: gr 7, social studies (one-year assignment)

Jamie Bruckschen (Beaver Dam WI) to **Kettle Moraine LHS**: computer, economics (reassigned for second year)

Ruth Buchholz (Phoenix) to **Kingdom Prep LHS**: gr 10 science

Drew Dey (Bay City MI) to **First LC-Racine WI**: associate pastor

Rebekah Edelburg (Rib Lake WI) to **Atonement LS-Milwaukee**: K4 (one-year assignment)

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

Aaron Fischer (Wilmot WI) to **Good Shepherd LS-Downers Grove IL**: gr 7-8 (one-year assignment)

Mollie Fischer (Greenfield WI) to **Atonement LS-Milwaukee**: K5 (one-year assignment)

Winter Fischer (Oconomowoc WI) to **Resurrection LS-Aurora IL**: gr 4-5 (one-year assignment)



Philip
Henselin
NWC 1981
Stewartville MN



Cheryl
Needham
DMLC 1976
Moline IL



Paul
Fritz
MLC 2006
Harrison MO



Herbert
Kuehl
DMLC 1956
Hinckley MN

MLC AND WLS GRADUATES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Michelle Goens (Watertown SD) to **St. Lucas LS-Milwaukee**: STEM (one-year assignment)

Isaac Hayes (Laveen AZ) to **St. John on the Hillside LC-Milwaukee**: pastor

Katrina Halldorson (Greeley CO) to **Christ/St. Peter LS-Milwaukee**: gr 5 (one-year assignment)

Laurel Hirschmann (New Ulm MN) to **St. Marcus LS-Milwaukee**: music director (reassigned for second year)

Christina Kapellusch (Phoenix) to **Christ/St. Peter LS-Milwaukee**: gr 4 (assignment made permanent)

Jazzmin Kasper (Edgar WI) to **Atonement LS-Milwaukee**: gr 4 (one-year assignment)

Samuel Koepsell (New Ulm MN) to **Mt. Calvary LS-Waukesha WI**: gr 8 (one-year assignment)

Paul Kramer (Appleton WI) to **Risen Savior LS-Milwaukee**: gr 6-8 Principal Training Program

Christian Kuether (New Ulm MN) to **St. Marcus LS-Milwaukee**: gr 5-8 social studies (one-year assignment)

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

Abigail Mleziva (Manitowoc WI) to **St. Marcus LS-Milwaukee**: gr 5-6 (assignment made permanent)

Marcus Mortensen (Beaver Dam WI) to **Illinois LHS**: gr 7-9, 11 science and technology

Dana Pietrzyk (North Fond du Lac WI) to **Christ Alone LS-Thiensville WI**: gr 1-2

Eliza Punzel (Kaukauna WI) to **Jerusalem LS-Morton Grove IL**: gr 1-2

Courtney Ritter (Berrien Springs MI) to **St. Marcus LS-Milwaukee**: gr 2 (one-year assignment)

Arianna Sanchez (Milwaukee) to **Risen Savior LS-Milwaukee**: gr 1 (one-year assignment)

Emily Schewe (Clovis CA) to **Our Savior LS-Grafton WI**: gr 2-3

Emma Schibbelhut (Onalaska WI) to **Good Shepherd LS-West Allis WI**: gr 1-2, piano (one-year assignment)

Cassandra Schilling (Lake Mills WI) to **Little Town of Bethlehem PS-Carmel IN**: ECE director apprentice (assignment made permanent)

Claire Schimanski (Waukegan IL) to **Kenosha LA-Kenosha WI**: gr 4

Michael Schoenfeld (Lake Mills WI) to **Kenosha LA-Kenosha WI**: gr 5 (assignment made permanent)

Jacob Shepherd (Aurora CO) to **St. Paul LC-Round Lake IL**: pastor

Olivia Snyder (Watertown WI) to **Bethlehem LS-Menomonee Falls WI**: gr 5-8 English (one-year assignment)

Sophia Spiegelberg (Gros Islet, St. Lucia) to **Atonement LS-Milwaukee**: gr 7-8 science (one-year assignment)

Morgan Steffke (Green Bay WI) to **Mt. Lebanon LS-Milwaukee**: gr 2 (one-year assignment)

Michael Tracy (Jefferson WI) to **Chaplains in Schools-Milwaukee**: staff minister

Benjamin Walter (Dickinson ND) to **Kettle Moraine LHS**: computer skills, instructional technology

Melissa Waterstradt (Oconomowoc WI) to **St. Marcus LS-Milwaukee**: gr 3 (reassigned for second year)

Amy Weiglein (Brownsville WI) to **Our Savior LS-Zion IL**: gr 6-8 (one-year assignment)

Sara Wentzel (Tempe AZ) to **St. Matthew LS-Iron Ridge WI**: gr 1-2 (one-year assignment)

Kaitlyn Wong (Laveen AZ) to **St. Philip LS-Milwaukee**: gr 3 (one-year assignment)

WESTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Joshua Barnett (Vassar MI) to **St. Stephen LS-Beaver Dam WI**: upper grade social studies, music

Allison Boggs (Royal Palm Beach FL) to **St. Mark LS-Watertown WI**: grade 1

Ethan Eisenmann (Appleton WI) to **Trinity LS-Marshfield WI**: gr 6-8 (one-year assignment)

Johanna Fischer (Watertown WI) to **St. John LS-Baraboo WI**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Yaffet Gabayehu (Dallas) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Mitchell Giovannettone (Watertown SD) to **St. Paul LS-Lake Mills WI**: gr 6, Principal Training Program (assignment made permanent)

Joseph Herrewig (Fond du Lac WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Ella Hirsch (Manhattan KS) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Clara Kammuelier (Pittsville WI) to **St. Paul LS-Bangor WI**: gr 3-4 (one-year assignment)

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

Brandon Leiterman (Greenleaf WI) to **St. John LS-Neillsville WI**: lower grades

Alison Lindemann (Lewiston MN) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Jason Lindemann (Egg Harbor WI) to **Good Shepherd LC-Beloit WI**: pastor

Kendra Neumann (Kenosha WI) to **St. Stephen LS-Beaver Dam WI**: K

Emmalie Olsen (West Bend WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Madison Ott (Germantown WI) to **St. Paul LS-Moline IL**: K-3

Leah Plocher (Pardeeville WI) to **Leap of Faith Lutheran PS-New Lisbon WI**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)



Terry Friedrichs
MLC 2006
Hanska MN



Peggy Holzer
DMLC 1971
Westminster CA



Lyle Lindloff
NWC 1956
Elkton SD



Carolyn Bathke
DMLC 1946
Minneapolis

Assigned to Your District

Hannah Rodewald (New Ulm MN) to **Luther Preparatory School**: mathematics (one-year assignment)

Joseph Rodewald (Greenville SC) to **Luther Preparatory School**: instructor, history (reassigned for third year)

Tyler Roecker (Campbellsport WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Julia Schibbelhut (Onalaska WI) to **Northland LHS**: chemistry, physics

Daniel Schmidt, Jr. (Ixonia WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Katelyn Schultz (Sparta WI) to **Risen Savior LS-Milwaukee**: gr 2 (reassigned for second year)

Dillon Solomon (Troy MI) to **St. John LS-Wrightstown WI**: gr 5-8

Matthew Spoerl (Green Bay WI) to **St. Paul LS-Tomah WI**: gr 5-8 departmentalized, Principal Training Program

Ava Steinbrenner (Hartford WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Luke Thomford (Chesaning MI) to **St. Paul LC-Moline IL**: pastor

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

Jason Threlkeld (Milwaukee) to **Grace LC-Ridgeway MN / Trinity LC-Wilson MN**: pastor

Timothy Weddle (Bothell WA) to **St. Paul LS-Tomah WI**: departmentalized language arts (one-year assignment)

WORLD MISSIONS

Elizabeth Bartz (Eau Claire MI) to **Grace LS-Grand Anse, Grenada**: grade 3 (reassigned for second year)

Montara Hamilton (St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda) to **St. John LS-St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda**: grades TBD

Mark Zondag (Mequon WI) to **Asia One Team-Chiang Mai, Thailand**: pastor

INTERNATIONAL SITES CHOSEN BY GRADUATES

Camryn Biebert (Inver Grove Heights MN) to **Quito, Ecuador**

Annalisa Schuette (Manitowoc WI) to **Mito, Japan**

KEY:

ECE – Early Childhood Education
LA – Lutheran Academy
LC – Lutheran Church

LHS – Lutheran High School
LS – Lutheran School
PS – Preschool

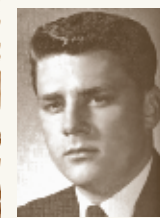
** Additional calls and assignments may have been made since this list went to press. For the fully updated lists, go to mlc-wels.edu/assignments and wls.wels.net/about-wels/assignment-list



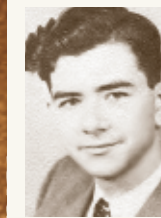
Edgar Greve
NWC 1946
New Prague MN



Alyssa Lawrence
MLC 2016
Yorktown VA



Wayne Mueller
NWC 1966
Winona MN



Harold Hosbach
DMLC 1951
Saginaw MI

Alumni Fund New Statue and Scholarships

The new *Fisher of Men* statue was unveiled and dedicated on MLC Day, May 5. After a COVID-delayed granite shipment prevented the installation last summer, we are thankful and excited to see it in place.

The statue sits at the center of the MLC mall on a base mirroring that of the Luther statue, with Scripture selections on all sides. It reminds us that Christ is at the center of MLC's mission. It also reminds us of Jesus' words in Matthew 4:19: "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people."

Special thanks to the hundreds of alumni who generously contributed to this 25th anniversary gift.

The campaign also endowed a new scholarship fund and awarded the first two scholarships to 2021 grads **Rachel (Schewe) Steinbrenner** (St. Peter-Clovis CA) and **Ryan Mitchell** (St. Paul-South Haven MI).

Fisher of Men is the copyrighted and trademarked creation of Christian artist Max Greiner Jr. of Kerrville, Texas.



MLC-OPOLY . . . Ready to GO!

This unique 25th anniversary item was developed with feedback from a focus group of 150+ alumni and students—and the special assistance of **Levi Stelljes** (St. Paul-New Ulm MN) and **Minh (Ronny) Nguyen** (Crown of Life-West St. Paul MN), pictured. Learn more and place your order at mlc-wels.edu/mlc-opoly. Supplies are limited.



25th Anniversary Choral Anthology

Another 25th anniversary production is a 2013-2020 choral anthology album titled *Same Jesus, Same Grace*. It partners nicely with the previously produced *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (1998-2013).

Popular selections include "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is," "His Robes for Mine," "All Praise to Thee, Eternal God," and "I Will Rise."

The albums are available in a variety of formats, including traditional CDs, MP3 digital downloads, and online listening with Spotify, Pandora, iTunes, Amazon Music, etc. Check them out, listen, or order at mlc-wels.edu/choir-music.



Joshua von Stein
MLC 2006
Rawson OH



Barbara Knapp
DMLC 1971
Klamath Falls OR



Richard Friebus
DMLC 1971
Phillipsburg KS



Thomas Schultz
NWC 1991
Goodhue MN



OWLS
ORGANIZATION OF WELS LUTHERAN SENIORS

OWLS Convention at MLC

OCTOBER 19-22, 2021

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

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

- Worship in Chapel of the Christ
- Speakers: MLC Professors Keith Wessel, Paul Koelpin, and James Pope
- Five workshops in Wittenberg Collegiate Center
- Lunches at MLC cafeteria
- Ministry display tables
- Tours of MLC and New Ulm

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

- \$140 Early Bird (postmarked by July 15, 2021)
- \$150 Normal (postmarked July 16-September 17, 2021)
- \$175 Late (postmarked September 18 or later)

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

For more information, go to wels.net/owls or contact
Werner Lemke DMLC '63 at wernerlemke@comcast.net.



Our 2021 graduates felt the excitement as they saw the initial successes of the ECW campaign! They watched the groundbreaking for the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse, and most of them graduated with lower debt because they received an annual Congregational Partner Grant, matched by ECW donors.

Next fall's new class will also benefit from the Congregational Partner Grants, and they'll spend time in that fieldhouse—for team practices, PE classes, and recreation—as they train to be Christ's witnesses, dedicated to sharing the message that Christ came to save sinners.

And we aren't finished yet! Please continue to support us with your gifts and your prayers. Please continue to encourage young people to consider serving our Lord Jesus as a pastor, teacher, or staff minister.



MLC Day was once again a huge success!

We received hundreds of submissions from homes, schools, and churches across the globe, all to celebrate Martin Luther College

and our MLC graduates—those from 2021 as well as those from our first 25 years, 1995-2020!

And we exceeded our goal, raising \$102,932 for the Congregational Partner Grant matching fund!

Go to mlcday.com/celebrating-graduates/ to see all kinds of videos, photos, and messages—some serious, some hilarious, all straight from the heart!

Rebooked Reunions and Tours!

Reunions: Campus is now open, and several 2020 reunions that fell as COVID-19 casualties have rebooked for 2021. Now is the time for milestone classes to plan their events. Call the Alumni Office (507-233-9135) or go to mlc-wels.edu/alumni/reunions.

Tours: The *O Canyonlands* trip is on for November 6-16, 2021. The *O Canada* tour is postponed to the summer of 2022. Both tours are sold out, but a waitlist is forming. Go to mlc-wels.edu/alumni/tours for more details.



**LaVerne
Zastrow**
DMLC 1951
Milwaukee



**David
Hagen**
DMLC 1981
Manitowoc WI



**Vicki
Jensen**
DMLC 1991
Burlington WI



**William
Dunn**
MLC 2011
Southlake TX

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Dr. John Boeder NWC '86, WLS '90 (campus pastor) led a Congregational Assistance Program Workshop on leadership in Chino Valley AZ in May. He also preached at the opening service and presented "The Blessings of MLC's Daylight Program" at the Pacific Northwest Missionaries' Conference in June.

Professor Ben Clemons MLC '03 (dean of education & staff ministry) presented "Hitting the Reset on Classroom Management" at the OpenLearning@MLC Conference in June.

Randall Cox (assistant AD) serves on the NCAA DIII Baseball Midwest Regional Advisory Committee.

Professor Rebecca Cox DMLC '89 (physical education) has been appointed chair of the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) senior woman administrators, which gives her a seat on the UMAC Executive Committee. She also serves on the American Volleyball Coaches Association DIII Head Coaches Committee.

Professor Lawrence Czer DMLC '79 (English) serves on the New Ulm Human Rights Commission.

Professor James Danell NWC '86, WLS '90 (German) and **Dr. Keith Wessel** NWC '87, WLS '91 (Latin & Greek) were appointed to the WELS One Europe Team as representatives of the Commission on Inter-Church Relations.

Professor Greg Diersen MLC '96 (math & science) co-authored "Competition for Pollination and Isolation from Mates Differentially Impact Four Stages of Pollination in a Model Grassland Perennial" in the March 2021 issue of the *Journal of Ecology*.

Professor Rachel Feld MLC '06 (Academic Computing and Online Learning director) virtually presented "Online Teaching: Food for Thought" to the faculty of Apostles-San Jose, "Technology and Early Childhood Education" to the early childhood majors at Wisconsin Lutheran College, and "Communication and Wellness with Technology" at the OpenLearning@MLC Online Conference. She led "Universal Design for Learning in K-2" at the Kettle Moraine Lutheran Educators Conference. She also served on a WELSSA visiting

team to St. John-Burlington WI, and she continues to assist the Commission on Lutheran Schools with the utilization of Google tools in the WELSSA process.

Professor Dan Fenske DMLC '87 (science) gave a campus Aulic presentation on "Evolution: What Should We Teach?" in April.

Professor Joel Fredrich NWC '77, WLS '82 (foreign languages & theology) taught a Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary course on Acts 1 and 2 (in Greek) at the Minnesota District Pastoral Conference in April. He also taught on Colossians (in Greek) at the Nebraska Pastors' Summer School at Gethsemane-Omaha in July.

Professor Dan Gawrisch MLC '08 (physical education) presented "Quality Physical Education Technology Resources" at the OpenLearning@MLC Conference in June.

Professor Kelli Green DMLC '92 (education) earned her Minnesota Administration of Special Education license. She also taught several courses and trainings: "Diverse Learners" at Minnesota Valley LHS (April), "UDL & Special Education" and "UDL in Grades 3-5" at Kettle Moraine LHS (June), "Advocacy: Serving Exceptional Students" at Fox Valley LHS (June), and "Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports PBIS" at Divine Savior Academy-Doral FL (July).

Dr. Richard Gurgel NWC '81, WLS '86 (president) taught a Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary course, "Preaching Sanctification in Ways that Honor Gospel Predominance," at the Minnesota District Pastoral Conference in April.

Professor Grace Hennig DMLC '89 (music) published "The Wit, Wisdom, and Wonder of Carl Schalk" in the June issue of *In Tempo*, a newsletter of the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians. Dr. Schalk, a leading voice in Lutheran church music and a mentor of Professor Hennig, died in January 2021.

Professor Jonathan Laabs MLC '08 (music) was the vocal soloist for the Bel Canto Chorus (Milwaukee) concert performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* in May. He also served as artistic director and conductor at the summer choral retreat of Canticum Novum: A WELS Chamber Choir, which was held at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in June.



**Steven
Witt**
DMLC 1991
Sleepy Eye MN



**Nicole
Rosenbaum**
MLC 2011
Wildomar CA



**Martin
Baur**
NWC 1976
Edmonds WA



**Verna
Schultz**
DMLC 1956
Princeton WI

Professor Emeritus Mark Lenz, PhD NWC '65, WLS '69 has served the church in many ways since his retirement in 2013. He taught at Asia Lutheran Seminary in Hong Kong in 2013-2014. He served vacancies in Memphis, Knoxville, Crossville, and Nashville TN and, most recently, in Summerville SC. Presently, he teaches online classes for MLC, the Association of Lutheran High Schools Online, and 316NOW. He also serves on the board of 316NOW, which seeks to raise up Christian leaders in Southeast Asia who understand and practice confessional Lutheranism.

Dr. John Meyer DMLC '87 (Graduate Studies and Continuing Education director) saw publication of his paper, "Educational Leadership and Cognitive Change: A Transdisciplinary (Education, Cognitive Psychology, Neuroscience) Model" in the *Journal of Organizational Psychology*, Volume 21(1).

Dr. Kari Muentz MLC '99 (social sciences) presented the keynote address, "Using the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to Remove Barriers to Learning," as well as a sectional on UDL, at the Kettle Moraine Lutheran Educators Conference in June. She also presented the sectional "UDL and Inquiry-Based Learning" for grades 3-5 and 6-8 at the FVL Schools PK-12 Learning Institute Update in June.

Professor Thomas Nass NWC '77, WLS '82 (Hebrew), taught a Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary course on the book of Joel (in Hebrew) at the Minnesota District Pastoral Conference in April. As vice president of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, he helped facilitate the online convention of the CELC in May and June.

Dr. Mark Paustian NWC '84, WLS '88 (English & Hebrew) wrote and appeared in three video lessons on active listening for the new WELS evangelism training program, "Let's Go!" He also virtually presented "Narrative Witnessing" to students at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in March.

Dr. Carrie Pfeifer DMLC '81 (adjunct, Graduate Studies) was elected to the Executive Council of the Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Educators as a representative of the private college caucus. She also serves on the Program Review Panel of the Professional Educators Licensing and Standards Board, which reviews the education preparation programs of Minnesota colleges. In April, she provided special education consultation

services, as well as a workshop on supporting students with autism, at Christ-Port St. Lucie FL. This summer she completed the second phase of LETRS training, which focuses on delivering literacy instruction based on the science of reading, and she continues to provide literacy instruction training and support to teachers and schools in the ELS and WELS and across the state.

Professor David Scharf MLC '00, WLS '05 (theology) led a seven-week Bible study at St. John-New Ulm MN called "Lies about God." He presented "Doctrine and Practice of Stewardship" at the Michigan District Teachers' Conference in June. He preached for an MLC Sunday at Mount Olive-Appleton WI in July, and he preaches and leads Bible study monthly at Christ the Lord-Cottage Grove MN. He also continues to serve as a contributing editor to *Forward in Christ*, and to create written and videotaped devotions for Time of Grace-Milwaukee.

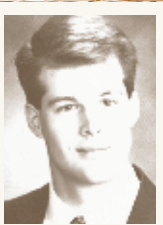
Instructor Jason Schmidt MLC '04 (adjunct, Graduate Studies) earned EduCATE Wisconsin licenses for Principal and Director of Instruction. He will begin a new job July 1 as the Executive Director for Wisconsin Virtual School through CESA 9 in Tomahawk WI. He is also a regular guest on the WELSTech Podcast, and he presented "Google Assignments: The LMS Tool You Didn't Know You Needed" at the Nebraska Educational Technology Association Conference in March 2021.

Professor Tingting Z. Schwartz MLC MS Ed '15 (Chinese) presented "Multicultural Identity and the Journey to Belong" at the LWMS Minnesota Valley Circuit Spring Rally in April. She was invited to join the WELS Women's Ministry planning committee for the 2022 conference and completed a study of Ephesians with other committee members. She was also certified as a qualified administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) in June.

Kate Tohal (resource development counselor) presented the keynote address "Equipping Christian Witnesses" at the LWMS Spring Rally at St. Mark-Bemidji MN in April.

Dr. Jeff Wiechman DMLC '92 (vice president for academics) presented "Team Building & Leading in a Crisis" at the OpenLearning@MLC Conference in June.

Professor Emeritus Frederick Wulff DMLC '64 has self-published his tenth book, *Three Little Wulff Siblings and How They Grew*.



Chad Wright
MLC 1996
Marietta GA



Ruth Meier
DMLC 1966
Janesville WI



Earl Rolloff
DMLC 1941
Calvary WI



Evodia Cassius
MLC 2016
Castries, Saint Lucia

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Issues in Lutheran Education

2020-21 Blog Posts by MLC Professors

Dr. James Carlovsky MLC '02

"Moments of Learning in Mathematics"

Professor Ben Clemons MLC '03

"Hitting the Reset on Classroom Management"

"Cultural Responsiveness in Christian Education"
(2-part)

Professor Rachel Feld MLC '06

"Building Relationships through Active Technology"

Professor Dan Fenske DMLC '87

"A COVID-19 Response: Why We Should Be
Teaching Evolution"

Professor Kelli Green DMLC '92

"Sustaining Compassion in Education" (2-part)

Professor Alan Uher DMLC '87

"Digital Strategies for the Multi-Grade Classroom"

Joining Faculty in 2021-2022



Aaron Robinson

MLC '96, WLS '00

Cultural Diversity Coordinator
and Professor of English



Luke Thompson

MLC '09, WLS '13

Professor of Theology
and History



Daniel Waldschmidt

MLC '08, WLS '12

Professor of Greek

Celebrating Ministry Anniversaries in 2021



Professor Paul Tess

DMLC '77

45 years



Professor Joel Fredrich

NWC '77, WLS '82

40 years



Professor Cheryl Loomis

DMLC '77

40 years



Professor James Pope

NWC '77, WLS '81

40 years



Professor Mark Tacke

DMLC '80

40 years



Professor Greg Diersen

MLC '96

25 years



Professor Jennifer Krause

MLC '96

25 years



Curt

Backhaus

NWC 1986
Glendale AZ



Ron

Winter

NWC 1966
Appleton WI



Chanda

Steele

MLC 1996
Mendota Heights MN



Mark

Kahrs

MLC 2011
Clatonia NE

Retiring in 2021



Grace Bases

DMLC '73

Library Technical Services Manager
Served MLC 2000-2021



Steven Burt

Maintenance Supervisor
Served DMLC/MLC 1982-2021



Professor Thomas Hunter

DMLC '75

Professor of English
Director of International Services
Served DMLC 1991-1995
Served MLC 1995-2021



Professor James Pope

NWC '77, WLS '81

Professor of Social Sciences,
Theology & Staff Ministry
Served MLC 2000-2021



Professor John Schmidt

NWC '70, WLS '74

Professor of Greek & Theology
Served NWC 1981-1995
Served MLC 1995-2021



Professor Paul Tess

DMLC '77

Professor of Education
Director of Field Experiences
Served MLC 2006-2021

In Memoriam



**Professor Emeritus
William H. Birsching**
1932-2021



**Professor Emeritus
Daniel M. Deutschlander**
1942-2020



**President Emeritus
Lloyd O. Huebner**
1925-2020



**Pastor Emeritus
Edward W. Lindemann**
1936-2021



**Professor Emeritus
Arthur J. Schulz, PhD**
1929-2020

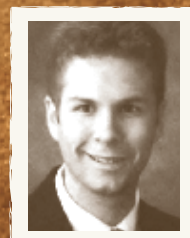
For full obituaries, go to
mlc-wels.edu/history/professor-obituaries



**John
Lange**
DMLC 1981
Watertown WI



**Magdalene
Pabst**
DMLC 1956
Fond du Lac WI



**James
Hoogervorst**
MLC 2001
Neenah WI



**Josiah
Kroll**
MLC 2016
Kumba,
Cameroon



RETIRING IN 2021



Professor John Schmidt

NWC '70, WLS '74

He served as a professor of Greek at NWC/MLC from 1981 to 2021. Prior to that ministry, he served as a parish pastor at St. Paul-Grand Junction CO and St. John-Montrose CO (1974-1981).

Dean of Preseminary Studies Daniel Balge has been a longtime friend and colleague of John. He says: "I first crossed paths with John Schmidt in spring 1981 in Watertown. I was a seminarian, an emergency Latin instructor at Northwestern Prep. Seven years a pastor in Colorado, John was then the new Greek professor at Northwestern College. John looked young; he still does.

"Four years later, back at Northwestern as a college tutor, I had John as both example and help for the elementary Greek course I taught. Those two years completed, I left Watertown for other ministry. But eight years later, I was the new Greek prof, sharing an office with John in Old Main at brand-new MLC. What a blessing for rookie me. My kindly mentor helped me get settled. That included countless conversations across that big office, most of them not about Greek. We were officemates for about eight years.

"Thus, I have some background when alumni speak of their Greek profs. Often—nearly every WELS pastor under age 59 has been taught by John—the alum says something like this: "I had Professor Schmidt. He worked us hard. I'm glad he did." So say veteran pastors, grateful for the scholarly tool that is ancient Greek. For sermons and other study, these men can read (manmade copies of) the Spirit-inspired original language of the New Testament.

"And they appreciate how they got there. John taught them Greek, but they also caught a work ethic. John asked nothing of them that he did not demand of himself. They weren't the only ones working hard. John was too. For 40 years, he labored mightily to build the Greek skills not only of the language athletes, but also of the many pastors who—though their first strength is not Greek—are strong to counsel, correct, comfort, preach, teach, and reach. These men too use their Greek competently to God's glory and people's good. In John's classes, they were reminded that in school, in ministry, in life, when you have hard work, work hard at it.

"Students of Greek might notice the chiasmus in the previous sentence. You probably had Professor Schmidt."

Professor Emeritus Schmidt and his wife, Linda, plan to stay in New Ulm, attend MLC activities, and travel to visit their family.



Professor Thomas Hunter

DMLC '75

He served at DMLC/MLC as a professor of English and director of International Services from 1991 to 2021. Prior to his ministry here, he served as a tutor at Michigan Lutheran Seminary (1975-1976), a teacher and principal at Bethany-Hustisford WI (1976-1984), and a teacher and assistant principal at Lakeside LHS (1984-1991).

Pastor Mike Woldt, chair of the MLC Governing Board and former dean of students at MLC, pays tribute to Tom's service on our campus: "I've known Tom Hunter for 30 years. We served together on the faculty of Dr. Martin Luther College prior to the formation of MLC in 1995. Our families lived close to each other along Summit Avenue. We've maintained a cherished friendship over the years.

"Tom served faithfully in his call as a professor of English. However, I don't believe anyone would accuse him of being an ivory tower academic. He has a wide range of interests and abilities. Current students might not know that Tom served as an assistant football coach, drawing on his own background as a student-athlete. He loves camping and spending time outdoors. He possesses enviable skills as a handyman, and he served the community of New Ulm as a volunteer emergency medical technician (EMT), working shoulder to shoulder with the local hospital, police, and firefighters. Most important, he is a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. Like so many other faithful servants on our campus, Tom brought the whole of his Christian faith and life into the classroom.

"I witnessed a renewed ministry passion ignite in Tom when he became involved with international mission work. He pursued personal training in teaching English as a foreign language. He vetted opportunities for graduates to serve in international schools where WELS had a mission presence. He became instrumental in developing the International Services Office and, more recently, crafting plans for the new Cultural Engagement Center. Tom became an advocate for developing a more inclusive culture on our primarily monochrome campus, challenging faculty and students alike to listen and learn from people of diverse cultural backgrounds. He and Lisa led by example, making the Hunter home a welcoming refuge for students attempting to find their way and place in a culture foreign to them.

"As my mind drifts back to the first handshake we shared along Summit Avenue, I will freely admit that I had no clue as to all the blessings the Lord would bring to our church body through Tom Hunter. I just remember thinking, 'He's a really nice guy.' Thankfully, the Lord knew all along!"

In his retirement, Professor Emeritus Hunter looks forward to a slower-paced life of volunteer service to family, friends, and our Father. He plans to finish construction of his house, take long camping trips, and drive a semi part-time. He also looks forward to beginning each morning with "Well, Lisa, what should we do today?" as they finish their coffee.



Dale Schaumberg
DMLC 1961
Hartford WI



Karis Westendorf
DMLC 1991
Milwaukee



Michael Homan
MLC 2001
Madison IN



Jerry Gronholz
DMLC 1961
New Ulm MN



Professor James Pope

NWC '77, WLS '81

He served as a professor of social sciences, theology, and staff ministry at MLC from 2000 to 2021. Prior to his ministry here, he served as a parish pastor at St. Matthew-Milwaukee (1981-1988) and Peace-Bradenton FL (1988-2000).

His colleague Dr. Lawrence Olson admires Jim for his love of his Savior and his students. He says: "Prof. James Pope models the qualities every seminary graduate strives for: a pastoral heart paired with theological insight.

"Over the last 21 years, he has taught 10 different courses and walked into an MLC classroom well over 7,000 times to feed our students with the Word of God and to help them understand God's workings in human history. He has also supervised 25 interns as they completed that formative final step in their training.

"His students appreciated—I know because I asked them—how kind-hearted, open, and welcoming he was. They valued his mastery of what he was teaching and his ability to mix interesting stories and welcome humor in with his deep insights. They looked up to him as an example of humble service. They commented on how he connected with them and guided them. They will remember his love for his Savior and his commitment to the ministry of his church.

"Those students could have been speaking for me. Jim has had a profound, formative influence on our college and on the Staff Ministry Program. He has been a trusted colleague with a steady hand as we navigated seas that were sometimes rough over the last 21 years. I am thankful for the privilege of working with him for more than two decades. He has been a blessing from God to me."

Professor Emeritus Pope and his wife, Cathy, plan to stay in the area for now and take some time off. Eventually, they would like to combine travel and ministry by serving congregations beyond the Midwest that are experiencing temporary vacancies.



Professor Paul Tess

DMLC '77

He served MLC as a professor of education and director of Field Experiences from 2006 to 2021. Prior to his ministry here, he served as a teacher at Beautiful Savior-Milwaukee (1974-1975), St. John-Neillsville WI (1977-1984), St. John-Manitowoc WI (1984-2000), and St. Mark-Green Bay WI (2000-2006).

Paul's colleague Dr. Jeff Wiechman has appreciated his leadership as the director of field experiences. "Paul was a leader to those professors who served as supervisors of student teaching. He answered their questions. He pointed them in the right direction when it came to working with candidates and their cooperating teachers. He advised on how to speak gently with students at certain times and when to be brutally honest at other times. And yet he respected those professors enough to call and ask them about certain candidates and their potential assignments into the ministry. He trusted their judgment and asked for their input.

"Paul was a partner to those serving in positions of academic leadership. He helped define the scope of MLC field experiences within our larger education programs, effectively integrating them with our classroom experiences, and seeking to make them the best they could be.

"To me, as MLC's vice president for academics, Paul was one of my go-to advisors. We met regularly to discuss questions, issues, ideas, and the future. Paul was never afraid to ask hard questions, and he did so in the interest of clarity and of what was best for our programs. He would stop by regularly to check in and make sure we were on the same page before moving forward. I really appreciated his approach to leadership and decision making.

"I am thankful to call Paul my colleague and friend in ministry. I know everyone on our campus shares that sentiment. Together, we all pray for God's blessings as he and his wife, Beth, embark on their retirement journey."

As he enters retirement, Professor Emeritus Tess says he likes to think about the three Gs: gardening, golf, and grandkids. "Of course, grandkids are four-season fun," he says. "Beth and I have 11 to visit!"

"If you could leave MLC students with one last message . . ."

"Always remember that God puts people where he wants them, when he wants them there, to accomplish his purpose; so, in all things, pray, praise, and give thanks."

Professor Emeritus Thomas Hunter

"Remember always that service in the public ministry is an undeserved privilege from God."

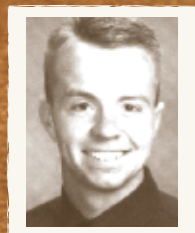
Professor Emeritus James Pope

"Remember that while many things in life change, there is something that doesn't—the Word of our Savior Jesus, who is the same yesterday and today and forever, promises that I have the blessing of believing and have had the privilege of sharing often in the original Greek."

Professor Emeritus John Schmidt

"Pray that out of the riches of his grace, God would mold you into the servant leader that in his eyes you are."

Professor Emeritus Paul Tess



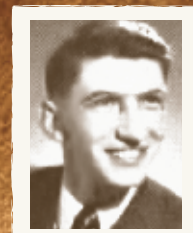
Justin Gut
MLC 2001
Mosinee WI



Rhoda Arndt
DMLC 1951
Jamestown ND



Eugene Pydynkowski
DMLC 1956
Baraboo WI



Kenneth Barry
NWC 1951
Woodbine IA



New Knight Medallion

A new Knight medallion hangs proudly in the Luther Student Center.

The Campus Beautification Committee asked artist Jason Jaspersen to sculpt this bas-relief as a complement to the medallions of Northwestern College and Dr. Martin Luther College also hanging in the center.

With funding from the MLC Student Senate and assistance from the art students at Bethany Lutheran College, where he teaches, Jaspersen sculpted a Knight who's noble and courageous—and uniquely Lutheran.

The clasp of his cape features Luther's seal. His mask is overlaid with Gothic arches replete with symbols of Word and Sacrament. And olive branches, emblems of victory and peace, form portions of the border.

Like all significant art, the image makes a striking first impression but doesn't stop there. It continues to deliver visual rewards as viewers look again and yet again.

As Jaspersen developed the concept for the medallion, he knew it was important to get the tone right. In a world struggling to define the parameters of authority and justice, he said, "I wanted to move this image away from one of brutality to a defender of the faith. I wanted to get to 'distinctively Lutheran' and suggest chivalry rather than oppression."

Inspection proves that he achieved his goal, and MLC Knights for generations will stand up and take notice.

Photo: Ben Lundsten