

IN FOCUS

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

FALL 2021



In This Issue . . .

Our Admissions Team

Meet Your Future Called Workers

MLC & the New Hymnal

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Aberdeen, SD
Permit #200

Address Service Requested

1995 Luther Court
New Ulm, MN 56073



InFocus Staff

WRITER/EDITOR

Laurie Gauger DMLC '87

COPY EDITOR

Heidi Schoof DMLC '86

STUDENT ASSISTANT

Cameron Schroeder MLC '22

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Lime Valley Advertising, Inc.

Leah Matzke

Office of Mission Advancement

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

William Pekrul DMLC '80

ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Steve Balza DMLC '93

College Administration

PRESIDENT

Rich Gurgel WLS '86

VP for ADMINISTRATION

Scott Schmudlach DMLC '85

VP for ACADEMICS

Jeffery Wiechman DMLC '90

VP for STUDENT LIFE

Jeffrey Schone WLS '87

Governing Board

Chair Aaron Mueller WLS '04

Vice Chair Michael Lindemann WLS '91

Secretary Geoffrey Kieta WLS '93

Member-at-large Michael Valleau

Joe Archer DMLC '77

Thomas Klaudt

Dale Krause

Joel Lauber MLC '06

Daniel Leyrer WLS '89

Timothy Petermann

David Uhlhorn MLC '99, '17

Andrew Van Weele MLC '04

Mark Wessel WLS '86

ADVISORY:

Rich Gurgel WLS '86

Dennis Klatt WLS '88

Michael Krueger

Paul Prange WLS '88

Duane Rodewald WLS '89

Mark Schroeder WLS '81

Thomas Walters

Welcome to the Admissions Team!

ECW Pillar #1 . . . and You

By President Rich Gurgel

NWC '81, WLS '86



It's the elephant in the room as we enter year three of MLC's Equipping Christian Witnesses (ECW) campaign.

We're so thankful to point to **ECW pillar #2, Student Financial Aid**, as it displays the success of our Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP). These congregational grants matched by MLC can total \$8,000 per student over four years, putting a significant dent in the debt students carry. For three straight years, our average graduate's debt has gone down.

A working group on campus is exploring even more ways to increase financial aid. We pray the years ahead will be a continuation of this success story as God blesses our students through the generosity of his people.

We're also thankful to point to **ECW pillar #3, Student Facilities**, as we watch the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse rise on the plains of southcentral Minnesota. That 36,000-square-foot indoor turf facility is still on pace to be ready in January for our athletic teams, intramurals, and PE classes. What's more, we have nearly 20% of the funds in hand for Luther Heights. That's the temporary name for what would be our first new residence hall in more than 50 years.

But you may have noticed that I've not mentioned **ECW pillar #1, Student Recruitment**. Those who have read this magazine or seen our ECW campaign materials know we've been working and praying to see our undergraduate enrollment grow back toward the 900-1,000 mark of MLC's early years.

We've said it again and again: Everything in the ECW campaign is related to recruitment.

Well, here comes the elephant! During the two years of the ECW campaign, our enrollment has not grown. In fact, it's decreased. Two factors—the current trend for college students to stay closer to home and the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic (including disagreements about how to handle that!)—have contributed to a 7% decrease

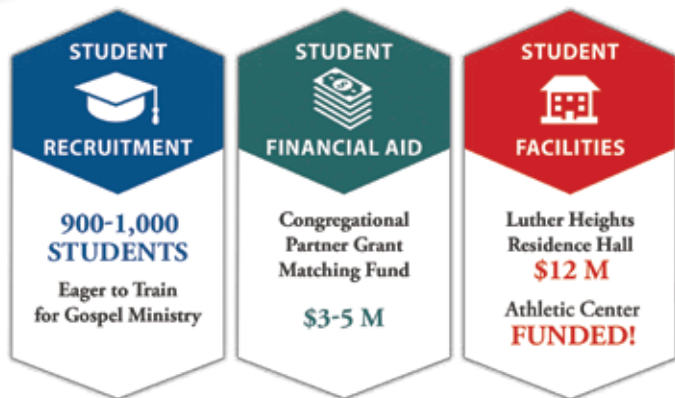


On the cover:
Our Admissions team is working hard to recruit students.
See more on page 5.

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.

The alumni photos at the bottom of the pages are from the anniversary classes of MLC, NWC, and DMLC: '42, '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07, '12, and '17. Thanks to Alumni Director Steve Balza DMLC '93, who provided this random selection of alumni.



in first semester enrollment from last year to this year. We began the 2021-2022 year with 663 undergraduate students.

Yes, we're thankful that our Admissions Office faces far fewer challenges this year than last. They have more freedom to travel to visit with students. Campus is fully open, so they can welcome prospective students in groups large and small. With the help of MLC students, they're creatively leveraging social media platforms to connect with high school students across the country and the world.

But as committed and resourceful as our Admissions Office is, they cannot blanket the country with their little team. They'd need a team of thousands for that. And before you protest that MLC could never afford to have an Admissions Office that large, let me assure you . . . *we already do*.

Let me explain.

I sit down for a one-on-one conversation with every MLC first-year student (*pictured*). It's one of my favorite parts of the week! One question I always ask is this: "Who or what got you thinking about studying for the public ministry?" The answers are fascinating. I hear a rich variety of ways God has been at work, planting and nurturing the idea that perhaps they could serve someday as a staff minister, teacher, or pastor.

What becomes crystal clear as I listen is this: The stories may be very different, but they drive home a singular truth. MLC's Admissions Office numbers in the thousands. And you, dear readers of *InFocus*, are among them!

Our new students tell me about the encouragement they receive from people like you. They tell me about parents, grandparents, and siblings who urged

them to go to MLC. They share memories about particular teachers whose love for teaching—and for their students—radiated the love of Christ. They tell me about pastors and staff ministers who spoke to them about ministry at youth group gatherings and confirmation classes. They talk about lay people in their congregations who, after seeing them teach Sunday school or lead a soccer Bible camp, took a moment to tell them they have gifts for ministry.

Even years later, many of those conversations—short as they may have been—still resonated in their hearts.

I thank God for you! And . . . may I urge you to become even more intentional in your role? I'm convinced that every one of you reading this magazine could name at least one young person (or not so young: think second-career) who would benefit from an encouragement to consider the public ministry. In fact, I'm convinced many of you see such gifted people around you every day in your family or church family.

It is my prayer, if God grants me continued health and strength, that in the years ahead, as I ask another first-year who led them to think about ministry, the name they will mention will be *yours*. I pray that God will allow you to play a part in our students' stories.

And, of course, the real and glorious beauty of the story will unfold years later, when that man or woman you encouraged becomes an encourager, sharing the forgiving and gracious love of Jesus day after day in the public ministry.

You see, it's all about pillar #1: student recruitment. So . . . welcome to the Admissions team!



RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION Inside

4 Meet Our Admissions Team

10-11 Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Students

14-23 Meet Your Future Called Workers (*a resource to share with high school students*)

27-29 Scholarships Enhance Recruitment



Jeremiah Strassburg
MLC 2002
Kewaskum WI



Louise Pingel
DMLC 1962
Tomah WI



Christopher Dean
MLC 2017
Edna TX



Kerri Marion
MLC 1997
Webberville MI

here on the hill

First-Year Top Scholars

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

(Qualifying PSAT score)

Justin Peter

Michigan Luth Sem

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP

(Number-one ranking in graduating class)

Ellie Baldwin

Michigan Luth Sem

Micah Boehm

St. Croix LA

Ryan Boggs

Luther Prep

Justus Borgwardt

Luther Prep

Elizabeth

Bornschlegl

St. Croix LA

Anna Busch

Great Plains LHS

Matthew Colson

Belvidere HS-IL

Tobias Edgett

Michigan Luth Sem

Benjamin Foster

Grand Ledge HS-MI

Lydia Hahm

Wisconsin LHS

Natalie Hueske

Nebraska LHS

Jenna Koehler

Michigan LHS

Elise Kopp

Michigan Luth Sem

Madeline Liebert

Fox Valley LHS

Isaiah Loersch

Luther HS

Margaret Menges

West LHS

Isabel Monday

Luther Prep

Justin Peter

Michigan Luth Sem

Maya Price

Northland LHS

Hope Sulzle

Luther Prep

Amelia Thiel

St. Croix LA

Lilianne

Zimpelmann

Luther Prep

MLC Students Medal in Regional Greek Exam

Martin Luther College made an excellent showing in its first appearance at the College Greek Exam sponsored by the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS).

In our first year of competition, all first-year Greek students participated and three MLC students medaled.

Silver Medalists:

Ethan Cloute

(St. Luke-Watertown WI) 82.5%

Owen Eubank

(Christ-Saginaw MI) 80.0%

Bronze Medalist:

Liam Kopp

(Christ-Saginaw MI) 72.5%

Fifteen additional students earned Honorable Mention honors.



MLC Greek professors, **Dr. Keith Wessel** (left) and **Professor Nicolas Schmoller** (right), flank the three students who medaled at the CAMWS College Greek Exam last spring: **Liam Kopp**, **Ethan Cloute**, and **Owen Eubank**.

Dr. Keith Wessel NWC '87, WLS '91 explained that although COVID-19 affected participation this year, more than 100 students from nine schools took the March 2021 exam. Scores ranged from 22 to 85 percent, with an average score of 51.70 percent.

"This exam provides valuable data for institutional assessment of our program," said Wessel. "We were very pleased our students did as well as they did, and this was also noted by the test organizers."

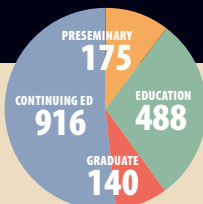
"We used the test data to perform our own analysis—to see where we are doing well and where we can improve our program on the first-year level. Also, those that formally assess MLC's programs look favorably upon external assessments such as this. After all, we can convince ourselves that we are doing a good job, but how do we know unless we have some way to compare ourselves to other programs across the country?"

This year MLC has 175 preseminary students. All of them are studying the biblical languages—four years of Greek and two years of Hebrew—in preparation for further training at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and for a lifetime of preaching and teaching Scripture.

MLC will become an institutional member of CAMWS next year. Membership benefits include scholarships and travel grants.

OUR STUDENT BODY BY THE NUMBERS

1,719 TOTAL
ENROLLMENT



663 UNDERGRADUATE
ENROLLMENT

33 STATES
REPRESENTED

8 COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED



Emery Hagen
MLC 2012
Santiago de los Caballeros,
Dominican Republic



Mark Guthmiller
NWC 1977
Aberdeen SD



Linda Helwer
DMLC 1972
Milwaukee



Grant Hultman
MLC 2007
Lenexa KS

Admissions Team

The Student Ambassadors (*pictured in grey and black*) assist with on-campus visitors, give campus tours, communicate with high school students through social media, and help out in any other way they can—always with a smile.

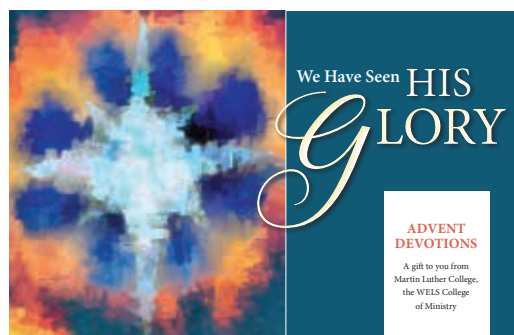
Front row: **Counselor Joel Thomford** NWC '84, WLS '88, **Counselor Martín Santos** MLC '17, **Nathan Pausma** (St. John-Fox Lake WI), **Grant Gawrisch** (New Life-Shoreview MN), **Ryan Boggs** (Divine Savior-West Palm Beach FL), **Jake Vilhauer** (Shepherd of the Valley-Westminster CO), **Ezra Blumer** (NorthCross-Lakeville MN),



Counselor David Biedenbender *DMLC '88*, **Director Ted Klug** *MLC '97, '18*.

Middle row: Admissions Assistant Wendy Ristow DMLC '82, Natalie Luebke (Trinity-West Bend WI), Lydia Krenke (St. John-Jefferson WI), Jordyn Heckendorf (Shepherd of the Hills-West Bend WI), Katie Fink (Mt. Zion-Kenosha WI), Counselor Lori Unke DMLC '84.

Back row: **McKenzie McIntyre** (Faith-Antioch IL), **Kassi Aguilar** (Cross of Glory-Peoria AZ), **Claire Tomhave** (St. Paul-Lake Mills WI), **Anna Treder** (Christ of the Vine-Temecula CA), **Halie Flores** (Reformation-San Diego).



We Have Seen His Glory is MLC's newest devotion book created for you. These 25 Advent devotions for December 1-25 explore God's glory as seen in the Old Testament and ultimately revealed in Jesus Christ.

The devotions are written by MLC faculty members, and the original art is by WELS artist Megan Schable.

Read or download the devotions online at
mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions.



3.61 AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL GPA OF FIRST-YEARS

24.1 AVERAGE ACT SCORE OF FIRST-YEARS

49 PERCENT
WOMEN

51 PERCENT MEN

99 PERCENT TRADITIONAL-AGE



**Lorraine
Ulrich**
DMLC 1942
New Ulm MN



**Donald
Pieper**
NWC 1977
La Crescent MN



**Suzanne
Waldschmidt**
DMLC 1972
Mason City IA



David Schulz
MLC 2002
New Ulm MN

here on the

hill

MLC Students Updated on Special Education and WELS Schools



The students in MLC's special education major heard a presentation by James Rademan, director of the Commission on Lutheran Schools, in September.

Rademan spoke about the growing number of WELS schools serving students with disabilities (374 out of 431). It is vital that educators working with these students be qualified and licensed in special education. Classroom teachers also need to have a mindset that is welcoming and inclusive of diverse students.

MLC is leading the way with undergraduate and graduate programs to prepare educators to meet this need.

MLC's academic behavioral strategist (ABS) licensure program prepares students to meet the needs of young people, kindergarten through age 21. Graduates are recommended for a Minnesota state ABS license, which qualifies them to work with students in K-12 school systems with a broad array of mild to moderate disabilities in the following areas: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Developmental Cognitive Disabilities (DCD), Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (EBD), Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD), and Other Health Disabilities (OHD).

MLC's undergraduate ABS coursework can also be applied with incentives to a Master of Science advanced license in Learning Disabilities (LD). Should a student choose to apply for the MS degree, they will fulfill the additional requirements for these advanced licenses in their master's coursework.



Special Education **Professor Kelli Green** DMLC '92 says, "Together with the Commission on Lutheran Schools, we are striving for excellence in how we serve students in WELS schools. This means we keep up with federal and state law regarding students with disabilities placed in nonpublic/private schools, and we decide how we can team with public schools through community engagement efforts to serve these students with best practices."



MLC Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 4, 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 5, 4:00 pm

Chapel of the Christ

FIND GREAT GIFTS
for the entire family
at the MLC BOOKSTORE!

mlc-wels.edu/bookstore

Orders totaling \$50
or more ship for free!*

* MLC-OPOLY not included in free shipping offer.



**William
Bein**
NWC 1952
Portage WI



**Helen
Steele**
DMLC 1977
Redondo Beach CA



**Adam
Bode**
MLC 2002
Saginaw MI



**Owen
Dorn**
DMLC 1962
Hendricks MN

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE MLC MLC MLC MLC MLC MLC MLC MLC MLC MLC

MLC MLC

Congratulations on Your Master's Degree!

We congratulate the men and women who graduated from the Martin Luther College master's program this year.

"Under strenuous pandemic circumstances," said **Dr. John Meyer** DMLC '87, director of Graduate Studies, 21 candidates completed their master's degree! These graduate students are an excellent example of dedication to growth and faithfulness in their callings."

Front row: **Charles Galecki**, MS Ed Admin (principal); **Michael Allard**, MS Ed (leadership); **Amy Lawonn**, MS Ed (special education); **Susan Van Houten**, MS Ed (instruction); **Heidi Groth**, MS Ed (instruction); **Phillip Scriver**, MS Ed Admin (principal).

Middle row: **William Fuerstenau**, MS Ed Admin (principal); **Timothy Wrobel**, MS Ed (educational technology); **Anneliese Gumm**, MS Ed (instruction); **Justin Groth**, MS Ed (leadership); **Richard Stockton**, MS Ed (special education).

Back row: **Thomas Plitzuweit**, MS Ed Admin (principal); **Brandon Steenbock**, MA Theological Studies; **Joshua Rimpel**, MS Ed (leadership); **Justin Danell**, MS Ed Admin (principal); **Kurt Nielsen**, MS Ed (educational technology).

Not Pictured: **Philip Dretske**, MS Ed (educational technology); **Corinne Humann**, MS Ed (special education); **Mary Lewiston**, MS Ed Admin (early childhood director); **Nathan Reich**, MS Ed Admin (principal); **Jacob Unke**, MS Ed Admin (principal).



Principals Really Matter

In this important post on our *Issues in Lutheran Education* blog, **Dr. John Meyer** DMLC '87 explains that, according to research, a principal's effect on student achievement may be greater than that of a classroom teacher. Principals really matter.

Unfortunately, in fall 2021, one in eight WELS schools started the school year without a principal. Instead, a retired teacher, a pastor, or a teacher team is temporarily filling the void.

WELS needs more trained principals. MLC and the Commission on Lutheran Schools have partnered to create an excellent principal training program called WELS Principal Credential Cohort. MLC provides a scholarship that covers 50% of the cost of the program.

But we need qualified candidates—teachers with leadership gifts and at least three years of teaching experience—to step up and answer the call. And we need congregations to lend financial support to those candidates for this program.

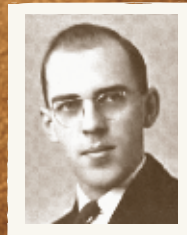
Read more about this leadership crisis and what you can do to help.



Kimberly Festerling
MLC 1997
Vancouver BC
Canada



James Boehm
DMLC 1967
Rawson OH



Robert Steffenhagen
NWC 1942
Hastings MN



Tracy Pochop
DMLC 1982
Aberdeen SD



VOLLEYBALL

Senior libero **Kate Aswege** (*Mt. Olive-St. Paul*) moved into third place in program history in career digs early this season, and then helped push the Knights to a 6-1 start in UMAC play—its best conference start since 2006.



GOLF

Senior **Kyle Lindemann** (*St. John-Lewiston MN*) recorded three top-five finishes in the Knights' first five events this season, including a tie for fourth place at the UMAC Preview tournament on September 6 at Pebble Creek Golf Course with a round of 78.



FOOTBALL

The Knights football team, two-time defending UMAC champions, scored a 42-28 non-conference win over Wisconsin Lutheran College on September 11. Sophomore running back **#7 Carson Oestreich** (*Immanuel-Hadar NE*) ran for 187 yards and two scores on the way to UMAC Offensive Player of the Week honors in the win.



Donald Schultz
NWC 1992
Milwaukee



Gretchen Stelljes
DMLC 1992
Columbia MO



Herbert Pederson
DMLC 1957
Lyons NE



Kathryn Knickelbein
MLC 2002
West Allis WI

Highlights

By Sports Information Director Michael Gibbons



CROSS COUNTRY

First-year runner **Maya Habben** (Mt. Calvary-Flagstaff AZ, front right) helped the Knights to a strong start in the 2021 cross country season with solid performances at big meets hosted by Augustana and St. Olaf.



SOCCER

Sophomore forward **Isaias Santos** (Grace-Falls Church VA) scored a hat trick in the Knights 4-1 win over Buena Vista on September 22. Santos led the team with five goals in eight games during his debut season in the spring of 2021, and he scored four goals in his first four games this fall.



DeNoyer '21 Named First Team All-America

Knight running back **Austin DeNoyer** (St. Paul-Lake Mills WI) was named First Team All-America by the website D3football.com in June.

DeNoyer finished the abbreviated senior season with 67 carries for 504 yards and eight touchdowns in only four games. In the 44-14 victory over U of M-Morris, he ran for a season-high 218 yards and three scores.

Despite the shortened season, DeNoyer finished his MLC career with the program record for career rushing yards (2,948) and career yards per game average (117.9). He tied for second in career rushing touchdowns (33), and he ranks third in career rushing attempts (503) and fifth in career yards per carry average (5.86).

This marks the second postseason honor DeNoyer has received from D3football.com. He was previously named All-West Region following the 2018 season in which he broke the MLC

single-season record with 1,086 rushing yards on the way to UMAC Most Valuable Offensive Player honors. In the 2019 season, DeNoyer smashed his own single-season record and finished with 1,358 rushing yards on the way to helping MLC finish a perfect 8-0 in the UMAC and its second straight conference championship.

DeNoyer is the first MLC player to receive All-America honors from the website, which started giving out the awards in 1999.

He graduated in May with a phy ed major and coaching minor, and he was assigned to California LHS, where he serves as assistant athletic director, instructor, and dormitory supervisor.



Daniel Marshall
NWC 1982
Flint MI



Heather Crist
MLC 1997
Inver Grove Heights MN



Paul Mose
NWC 1987
St. Charles MI



Mary Anderson
DMLC 1952
Milwaukee

CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

The Cultural Engagement Center is up and running! The team is busy fulfilling the center's goals to welcome and support diverse students, provide opportunities for cross-cultural understanding, and promote community on campus—always with an eye on the Great Commission: to take the gospel to *all nations*.



Mrs. Megan Kassuelke

Director of Cultural Engagement



Prof. Aaron Robinson

Cultural Diversity Coordinator



Prof. Tingting Schwartz

International Services Coordinator



Welcoming International Students

Nine international students attended a welcome dinner hosted by **Prof. Tingting Schwartz** in September. "Everyone enjoyed a dinner of 12 Chinese dishes with rice and homemade noodles," said Professor Schwartz.

"Mooncakes were also served to celebrate a full moon festival observed by China (Mid-Autumn Festival), Korea (Chuseok), Japan (Tsukimi), and Vietnam (Tết Trung Thu)."

Twelve international students are enrolled this year. They come from Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Columbia, China, South Korea, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

Pictured: First row: Jiajun (James) Ji (China), Ziwen (Peter) Shi (China), Renée Johnson (Canada), Yu Geng (Jerry) Yang (China), SungGon (Peter) Kim (South Korea); second row: Jiale (Caleb) Huang (China), Zirui (Billy) Wang (China), Zihui (Regina) Lou (China), Juan David Escobar (Colombia). Not pictured: Kostiantyn Skorenkyi (Ukraine), Minh (Ronny) Nguyen (Vietnam), Urvin Lewis (Antigua).

Professor Schwartz also facilitated a meeting between our Asian students and Pastor Neil Birkholz, who serves as the WELS North American Asian ministry consultant after serving in East Asia for six years.



"I appreciate that the students were willing to talk with me and share their passion for serving in ministry," said Birkholz. "I inquired of blessings and challenges they're experiencing as they train for future service. I came away very impressed and encouraged about how God might use us to reach more people with the Good News."



MAKING THE MOST OF STUDY ABROAD

Mrs. Kassuelke (pictured left) is preparing several students for their semester abroad in Berlin, London, or Limerick, Ireland. The students enroll in her three 1-credit courses, one pre-departure, one in-country, and one upon reentry to the country and the campus.



James Everts
NWC 1967
Grafton NE



Lynne Schuelein
DMLC 1982
Edmond OK



Roy Rose
NWC 1967
Menomonee Falls WI

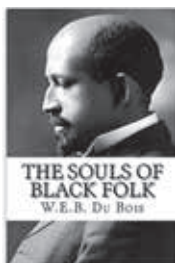


Cathryn Zarling
MLC 2007
Mequon WI

Promotes Cross-Cultural Understanding

Book Discussions

Reading and discussing great books can be an excellent way to explore complex topics. The center hosted two book discussion groups this fall semester.



Hearing Hispanic Voices

Mi Voz, Mi Vida means “My Voice, My Life.” During Hispanic Heritage Month, four of MLC’s Hispanic students shared their stories at a Facebook Live event: **Diana Escalona** (Divine Savior-Doral FL), **AnaCristina Iglesias** (St. Mark-Watertown WI), and **Kendra and Rebecca Rivera** (Messiah-South Windsor CT).

DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 20% of Americans identify as Hispanic, making them the largest minority in the U.S. Our graduates’ churches and schools will likely include Hispanic students.



RECRUITMENT AND ENRICHMENT

Professor **Aaron Robinson** MLC '96, WLS '00 traveled to Michigan Lutheran Seminary to talk to students about ministry (pictured). He’s also making recruitment trips to Wisconsin LHS, Kingdom Prep LHS, Luther Prep, and Divine Savior Academy-Houston and Miami campuses.

Robinson also took black MLC students on an enrichment trip to Pilgrim Lutheran Church-Minneapolis and to The Journey School, a charter school in St. Paul where MLC graduate **Michelle Cambrice** DMLC '94 is director and co-founder.



Third Culture Kids

The CEC hosted a meeting for third-culture kids, kids raised in a culture other than their parents’ culture or the culture of the country listed on their passport. The CEC supports and encourages them as they adjust to life in the American Midwest.

Day of Children’s Books

Spanish major **Morgan Gosch** (Bethel-Sioux Falls SD) and preseminary studies junior **JuanDa Escobar** (Divine Savior-Doral FL) were two of several MLC students who read favorite childhood books in Spanish and English to area children. The reading groups met at the Cultural Engagement Center, at the MLC Early Childhood Learning Center, and outside on the library patio.



Joshua Hanson
MLC 2007
Portland OR



Claire Zarnstorff
MLC 2012
Anchorage AK



Thomas Plitzuweit
MLC 1997
Phoenix AZ



Mariah Schoof
MLC 2017
New Ulm MN

Sing to the Lord a New Song

Martin Luther College and the New *Christian Worship*: Hymnal

As WELS Lutherans page through their new *Christian Worship* hymnals, psalters, and resource books, we take a moment to recognize the contributions of the MLC campus family to this suite of materials.

Professor Emeritus Bruce Backer
Hymn tunes/settings

Laurie Gauger
Hymn and metrical psalm texts

Professor Grace Hennig
Hymn and psalm tunes/settings
Psalmody Committee member
Video appearance to introduce psalter

**Professor Emeritus
Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer**
Hymn and psalm
tunes/settings

Dr. Mark Paustian
Devotion book: *Our Worth to Him:*
Devotions for Christian Worship

Professor Joyce Schubkegel
Hymn and psalm tunes/settings

Professor Emeritus Ronald Shilling
Psalm tune/setting

Professor Adrian Smith
Psalm tunes/settings
Psalmody Committee member
Video appearances to introduce psalter

Dr. Keith Wessel
Executive Committee member
Rites Committee member
(revised *Christian Worship:*
Agenda & Pastor's Companion)



Cantors like **Noah Ungemach** (*First German-Manitowoc WI*) help introduce new hymns in MLC's morning and evening chapel services.

Introducing



CHRISTIAN
WORSHIP
PSALTER



Professors Grace Hennig DMLC '89 and **Adrian Smith** MLC '03, both members of the Psalmody Committee, appeared in a new video produced to introduce the new psalter for corporate worship. Professor Smith and his family also appeared in another video that encourages the psalter for family use.

"It was a highlight for me," Professor Hennig said, "to work with a practice of the Christian faith that falls into both ancient and modern realms in worship—using the book of psalms in a musical way. Because the psalms are our model worship book of the Bible, I pray that through the psalter we've created a tool that brings people closer to them."

Professor Adrian Smith agrees. He adds, "I can't wait to share these materials with my students so they know they have a solid resource that contains great material they can give their students—music to grow into and to learn."

WELS Psalter Videos



Glenn Felch
DMLC 1947
Rhineland WI



Katherine Sinkus
DMLC 1977
Zion IL



Paul Strutz
DMLC 1987
New Ulm MN



Julie Becker
MLC 2007
Phoenix

Students Use New Resources

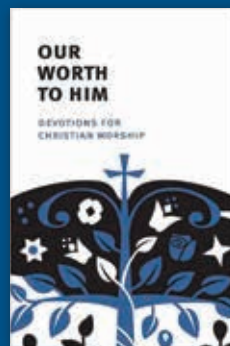
Our students have already begun using the new worship resources in the *Christian Worship* suite. They've been singing new psalms and hymns in daily chapel, and the piano and organ students have been playing the new music for their lessons. The Lutheran Worship course is taking students deeper into the scriptural and historically Lutheran foundations of liturgy, hymnody, and psalmody. And the Teaching Religion course is showing future teachers how to incorporate the materials into their future classrooms and congregations.

The Martin Luther College Choir (pictured), directed by **Professor Adrian Smith**, videotaped eight new hymn settings that were used synod-wide for WELS National Hymnal Week, September 19-26. They've also included new music from *Christian Worship* in their tour repertoire this year.



This extensive exposure to the new materials serves three purposes. It allows MLC to serve the whole synod as part of the unveiling project. It prepares students for their future roles as worship leaders—pastors, teachers, and staff ministers who “teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit” (Colossians 3:16). And it nurtures an appreciation for the creative process—a respect for the Master Creator's injunction, “Sing to the Lord a new song!”

Perhaps in coming years, these future church workers will dedicate their gifts to creating new texts and new scores—music that will be included in the *next* WELS hymnal project decades down the road.



As a complement to the *Christian Worship* hymnal and psalter, **Dr. Mark Paustian**

NWC '84, WLS '88 has written a book of devotions for Christian worship called *Our Worth to Him*.

In the same rich style we've come to love in his previous volumes (*Prepared to Answer* and *More Prepared to Answer*), Paustian asks us to ponder and celebrate Lutheran Christian worship as it has come down to us through the centuries and is now captured in our new hymnal and psalter. His 60 meditations explore the theology of worship, the Christian church year, the Common Service, worship variety and style, those who serve in worship, and the arts in worship.

“*Our Worth to Him*,” he explains, “is meant to turn upside down what we may think worship is mostly about, namely, our telling God what he is worth to us. That is certainly present in our songs and prayers and offerings. But all that is secondary, profoundly so, to the way he reveals our incomprehensible worth to him through Word and sacrament, always pressing home to us the gift he made of his own Son.

“Worship forms may change,” he continues, “but we can all hope to agree on a few guiding principles: 1) worship will be Word-saturated and Christ-obsessed, 2) worship will involve God's people in full participation and dialogue, 3) worship will blend old and new, and 4) worship will give full expression to the arts. These principles are present throughout the book.”

Watch this video message from Dr. Paustian about this devotional resource at mlc-wels.edu/devotions-on-worship



James Diener
NWC 1962
Hartford WI



Faith Schmitzer
MLC 2007
Jenera OH



Charles Sonnenburg Jr.
MLC 1997
Crete IL



Sarah Hackbarth
MLC 2017
Lake Mills WI

Meet YOUR (FUTURE) CALLED WORKERS

Pages 14-23 are adapted from MLC's recruitment magazine, *KnightWatch*. We hope high school students will be inspired by these stories, but we think our *InFocus* readers will also be interested. These are the people who may be serving at your congregation or school some day!



**YAFFET
GABAYEHU**

*Luther Prep '13
Tutor at Luther Prep*

MLC '17 / WLS '21

MLC Major: Biblical Languages,
Classical

MLC Minor: Spanish for Pastors

WLS: Master of Divinity

*Activities at MLC: Football,
tennis, RA, Chorale, job in
Fitness Center, Student
Ambassador for Admissions
Office, Events Team, Service
& Cross-Cultural Learning
Committee, piano
lessons, intramurals*

YAFFET GABAYEHU

Yaffet graduated from MLC in 2017 and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2021. He was assigned to his alma mater, Luther Prep, as a religion instructor, dorm supervisor, and JV football coach.

How does "Dr. Gabayehu" sound?

I was initially thinking about the medical field. I liked people, and I wanted to serve them, and it would've been a whole different story—probably a great one too. But as a pastor, I get to serve people in a manner that's just as important, if not more so. I get to share the gospel and create these relationships so we can serve Christ together in this life and ultimately live together in heaven.

SHOUT-OUTS: So many LPS faculty members pulled me aside and gave me encouraging words about MLC. **Tutor Aaron Schumann** was great. When I was going through tough times, he knew exactly what to say. My mom had a big impact on me, encouraging me to try it out. And my pastors in Dallas, **John Koelpin** and **John Vieths**, and their families gave both direct and indirect encouragements. "Man, these are men of God," I thought, "and I'd love to be a servant like them." I'm still trying to do that every day.

From MLC to the seminary: I feel like MLC more than prepared us to handle the Greek and Hebrew biblical studies at the seminary. And by senior year at MLC, there's a new level of maturity. My preseminary classmates and I knew we were taking the next step. We knew being under-shepherds of Christ is an important calling, and we were looking forward to it. We wanted to do that boldly, humbly, in a way that would

encourage guys under us to do the same thing. That's the theme in the pastor track—the camaraderie and the brotherhood.

The student is now the tutor: It's dawning on me how much I didn't know about what the Prep tutors did when I was a student here. It's an important job, and I'm humbled and blessed to carry it out. I'm going to learn a lot from my peers and from the students, as I get to know them. I remember how special the tutor-student relationships were for me. I want to do that for my students—give them both law and gospel in as specific a way as possible and encourage them to serve God, whatever they do. Maybe that's MLC!

HIS ADVICE— **Take 1:** If you love God, love his people, and love his Word, then try out MLC. MLC will equip you with the tools you need to serve the people around you and serve your God in a way that's so rewarding because you get to be the person who shares the message of the gospel. It's a unique and wonderful mission and calling. And MLC gives you the tools to do it.

HIS ADVICE— **Take 2:** If you're thinking of the pastoral ministry, find a pastor you can talk to openly about anything—reservations you have or any excitement you have. It's good just to have someone to chat with, and because it's an open conversation, it doesn't have to lean one way or the other. It's just getting things on the table and hashing it out.

Meet YOUR CALLED WORKERS



PRESEMINARY STUDIES AT MLC

If you're interested in sharing the gospel as a pastor, MLC is the place for you. Our four-year BA program emphasizes theology and the biblical languages (Greek and Hebrew), but you'll do so much more than go to class. You can play sports, sing in choir, do ministry and volunteer work, and—of course—enjoy dorm life. At MLC, you'll grow spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and socially. Upon program completion, you can apply to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, where you'll finish your pastoral training. For more information, go to mlc-wels.edu/academics/pre-seminary_program



RUTH BUCHHOLZ



**RUTH
BUCHHOLZ**

*Arizona Lutheran Academy '16
Teacher at Kingdom Prep LHS*

MLC '21

Major: Life Science

Minor: Science

Activities at MLC: Volleyball (Second Team All-UMAC) basketball, president of Student Athletic Advisory Committee, president of The Heart of Teaching (urban ministry committee), RA and Augustana dorm supervisor, Bible study leader, piano and organ lessons, Women's Choir, intramurals, track coach at MVLHS, New Ulm volleyball referee

Ruth graduated from MLC in 2021 and was assigned to teach science at Kingdom Prep LHS. She had emergency-taught at Kingdom Prep in 2019-2020.

What's your dream call? For most of college, I never had an answer to that. I was excited to go anywhere, because I'm a firm believer that there are good things and good people no matter where you are.

Turns out, her dream call is teaching at an all-boys high school: At Kingdom Prep, I'll teach physical science and biology, serve as a pack leader for about 12 boys, and coach track & field. I'm also part of the Worship Committee and Exploration Thursday planning teams. Exploration Thursday is a unique program where we end classes early each week and provide students with new experiences. Sometimes it's job-related, sometimes it's working to transform their community, and sometimes it's bobsledding.

We're urban-adjacent: One of the best things MLC did was connect me with the Center for Urban Teaching. I would encourage everyone to utilize the partnership MLC has with CfUT and teach in a city for at least one summer. When I first started, I didn't want to teach in a big city, but I knew they would teach me good, solid teaching practices that I could use anywhere. Then, after my emergency call at Kingdom Prep, I knew that I really enjoyed being there, and as we approached Call Day, I was really hoping I would be called back.

Back in high school, she couldn't decide: Going into senior year, I was pretty sure I wanted to be a teacher,

but I loved science and was strongly considering following in my mom's footsteps and becoming a nurse. In December, I shadowed a nurse and really loved it. I could clearly picture my life as both a nurse and a teacher, and I knew there wasn't a wrong decision. Through many prayers and tearful conversations with my mom and a few teachers, I decided to be a teacher. I majored in life science because it seemed like the best compromise between the two professions.

SHOUT-OUTS: My campus pastor and volleyball coach, **Pastor Brad Bode**, encouraged me to become a teacher. He was good at pointing out how I could use my gifts in my ministry. My choir and band director, **Andrea Oppermann**, was also a big influence. The way she built relationships with her students and talked with us about the real-life challenges and blessings helped me see how much of a positive influence a teacher can have on their students. At MLC, I had so many wonderful professors. **Professors Paul Grubbs, Steve Thiesfeldt, and Greg Diersen** come to mind as excellent examples of the called worker I want to be.

HER ADVICE: As you contemplate your decision for this next step, know that God has a purpose and a plan for your life. Choose a college that will help you find God's purpose for you on this side of eternity. Some colleges do this better than others. If you choose to go to a public university, take advantage of opportunities to share your faith through your words and actions, and surround yourself with people who will help you continue to live for Christ.



Kingdom Prep

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL



Meet YOUR CALLED WORKERS



**URBAN
MINISTRY
AT MLC**

MLC offers targeted training to prepare teachers for service in urban settings. Our Urban Educational Ministry minor offers coursework and immersive field experiences in Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Chicago, Baton Rouge, and New York City. We also partner with the Center for Urban Teaching in Milwaukee. For more information, go to mlc-wels.edu/academics/urban-educational-ministry.



KRISTIN UHER



**KRISTIN
UHER**

Wisconsin LHS '18

MLC '23 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

Major: Secondary Life
Science Education

Minor: Science

*Student Senate, STEM&M,
College Choir, Forum (actor
in Oz, head of props for
Cat in the Hat, head of
costumes for Big Fish), piano
lessons, Campus Beautification
Committee, RA and
Centennial Hall dorm
supervisor, jobs at bookstore
and receptionist desk, STEM
Camp teacher, Soccer
Camp coach*

Early Field Experiences (EFE)

every year: EFE 1 is the first taste of teaching, and it is awesome that we get to experience it right away, during our first year. It gives us a chance to interact with students at different grade levels and teach a subject of our own choosing. I got to teach a science lesson all about fingerprints. It was so fun to see the fourth and fifth graders identify the patterns of each of their fingerprints and see how God has made each of them unique.

Teaching tools and toys—she

found them: The Curriculum Room is filled with all sorts of materials, manipulatives, toys, textbooks, teacher's manuals, and tools for planning and teaching lessons on all different subjects. These items and more can be checked out from the library by students as they practice teaching.

It's not just STEM, it's STEM&M:

STEM&M stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, & Ministry. Members of this club set up STEM-related challenges for the student body to try while employing science and engineering principles. Some recent challenges included making strong rope out of toilet paper and making aluminum foil boats that could hold lots of candy hearts. This club is also looking outside of the MLC campus to the area grade schools to get the students there involved in STEM activities too.

Student Senate serves: Being involved in Student Senate has given me many opportunities to serve my fellow students while using and improving my gifts. I got to head up the Winter Carnival Committee this past year, gaining leadership experience I can apply to my future ministry.

LOOKING AHEAD: She's ready for anything—K-12!

When I graduate, I'll be able to teach any grade from K to 12. I enjoy working with kids of all ages and am eager to get teaching! If God places me in a high school, I'd be excited to teach science. Wherever I end up, I'd love to get involved in any sort of drama program that the school may have, as well as music and sports programs.

The inside look from teacher-parents:

I've wanted to be a teacher since I was little. Both of my parents are WELS teachers, and I always wanted to be just like them. Growing up, my siblings and I used to play school, and we'd teach lessons to each other and hand out assignments drawn in crayon or marker. I had my mom as a teacher in both third and fifth grade and my dad as a teacher in seventh grade. Having teacher-parents gave me an inside look at what teaching would be like, so I'm excited I get to join them in the ministry soon!

HER ADVICE:

Take a look at Romans 12:4-8 and then take stock of your gifts and talents. God made you just how he wants you to be, and he's given you all the tools and abilities you need to serve him. Ponder where your gifts may be best utilized to serve God and others, whether in the public ministry or as a layperson in your church. Also, listen to the people around you, your teachers, pastors, relatives, and friends. They know you and can see how your gifts might be well used.

Meet YOUR FUTURE CALLED WORKERS

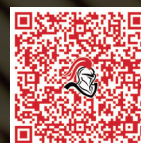


EARLY FIELD EXPERIENCE

Not sure whether teaching is for you? No problem. At MLC, we offer Early Field Experiences already your first year of college! This on-campus weeklong event gives you a glimpse into all different aspects of teaching, including an opportunity to teach your own class—like Kristin Uher, *pictured here*.

It's another way we help you clarify your thoughts and find the path that's best for you and your gifts. Read about EFE 2019 here:

mlc-wels.edu/EFE-story



EZRA BLUMER



**EZRA
BLUMER**

St. Croix Lutheran Academy '19

MLC '23 / Preseminary Studies

Major: Biblical Languages, Classical

Emphasis: Spanish for Pastors

Basketball, soccer, Student Ambassador for Admissions Office, Männerchor (men's choir), Bible study leader, high school ministry and praise band at NorthCross-Lakeville MN, summer traveling ministry—presenting Teen Nights with his sister in the western US

Just a little internship—at the Olympics! This summer, I interned with NBC overseas in Tokyo for the Olympics. I'm writing this from Olympic Stadium in Tokyo, where I'm helping with the production of the opening ceremonies and track and field events.

Before he was a Knight, he was a Gopher: I started at the University of Minnesota double-majoring in marketing and entrepreneurial management, but my real ambition was to get into DI basketball coaching. So I managed the guys' basketball team for a year and got to travel and support the team and coaching staff. I went through some pretty intense struggles with my faith during that time. But God sent some awesome guys who were trying to pursue Jesus at a major university, and they significantly changed my perspective. They encouraged me to take my faith seriously through personal devotion, community, prayer, church, and living differently. Something clicked, and I found Jesus filling every need. From there my faith was strengthened more and more each day, and I started to want to help others through the same trials I'd experienced. I brought this thought to my friends, and I thought they'd talk me out of it, but instead they pushed me toward it. I decided to come to MLC. I miss the U of M and my friends there, but I know what I'm doing now will have an impact that will last for so much longer!

Guys' group—growing in faith together: We started our "guys' group" first semester last year, and it demonstrates the type of environment MLC provides. Twenty guys on our floor meet weekly to talk about our walk with Jesus that week. What was hard? What went well? What do we

need prayers for? Becoming a called worker requires a lot of academic knowledge about the Bible, but it can be easy to simply view the Bible through the academic lens and forget about your own personal walk with Jesus. This is where guys' group comes in. Along with daily chapel, our group is a reminder that the life of a Christian and a called worker runs so much deeper than academic knowledge.

LOOKING AHEAD: I'd love the opportunity to plant a new mission church in one of the major American cities. I've lived in or near a city my entire life, and it's very sad to see the brokenness and sin within our cities. I'd love to help provide the only thing that can heal that brokenness, which is Jesus. If that could go hand in hand with a campus ministry, that would be awesome as well.

HIS ADVICE: Ask yourself, How do I want to make an impact? 1. *What's important to you?* Do you want a family life? Do you want to be there for your kids? Do you want a job where your faith can thrive? 2. *What are your gifts?* Take an inventory. You want to steward these in the best possible way, so know what they are and use them. 3. *Lean on others.* God has gifted you with other people. Ask them what they think you should do. Sometimes your parents know you better than you know yourself—ask them. 4. *Pray.* Try it. Trust me!

KEY QUESTION: **What if I'm a city kid? Will I fit in?** If you're a city kid and think there's no one here like you, there is! Trust me. There are people here from all demographics, backgrounds, and walks of life. There will be people here that you can lean on for support no matter where you may come from.



Meet
YOUR FUTURE CALLED WORKERS



CAMPUS CULTURE AT MLC

You can be a global traveler or a country kid who's barely left home. Either way, you'll find your place at MLC. Here we're united by shared goals, a sense of community, and a vibrant campus culture—one based on the gospel of Jesus and marked by spiritual growth, service, and mission-mindedness. We offer twice-daily chapel, religion classes, student- and professor-led Bible studies, and service projects. You'll definitely grow here. It's a campus culture like no other!

FUTURE
Pastor

CARSON OESTREICH

MLC '24

Pierce HS – Pierce NE

He's a talented football player who received scholarship offers from other colleges. "But I eventually decided to decline these offers," he says, "and follow my passion for pursuing public ministry." He knows his future is in God's hands, but he thinks a new mission start might be exciting. "The challenges behind growing a small church are something I'd love to take on."



FUTURE
Early
Childhood
Teacher

KATIE FINK

MLC '23

Shoreland LHS

In addition to her job as the football team manager, she's a student ambassador who helps high school students envision a future at MLC. Meanwhile, she's looking forward to her own future teaching the littles one day. "Wherever God sends me," she says, "is where I'll serve him."



FUTURE
Music and
Theater
Teacher

RYAN KLUBA

MLC '23

Manitowoc LHS

As a three-time president of Forum (drama club), an actor, producer, and member of College Choir, Wind Symphony, and Praise Ensemble, he says, "I've learned a great deal about what it means to be a servant leader." He's excited to take those gifts—and a double-major in secondary instrumental and vocal music education—into a future of servant leadership at a WELS elementary or high school.



FUTURE
Early
Childhood
Teacher

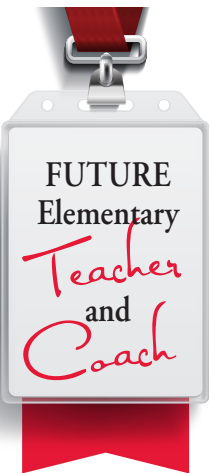
LEXI DABE

MLC '23

Michigan Lutheran Seminary

Right now she's an RA, a Student Senate leader, and a summer ministry assistant at her church in Cincinnati. Who knows what the future holds? She says, "One of the most amazing blessings of ministry is that there's so much flexibility in what you could end up doing! As an early childhood major, I could serve as a preschool teacher in Wisconsin or an early childhood director in Florida or a primary grades teacher in Colorado. How cool!"



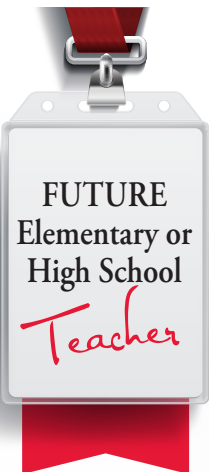


AARON BODE

MLC '24

Arizona Lutheran Academy

At MLC he plays baseball and intramurals while studying elementary education. After graduation? "We know that whatever God has planned will be a blessing," he says. "I would really enjoy teaching a younger grade as well as coaching. I grew up playing sports at a WELS grade school, so it would bring it full circle for me to coach at a WELS grade school someday."

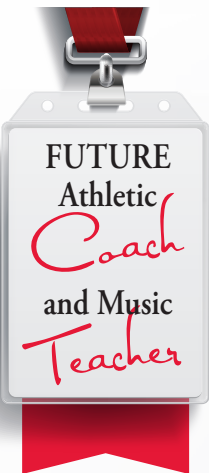


JENNA BOGGS

MLC '24

Luther Prep

As a former president of the Art in Ministry Club, she's a strong advocate for joining clubs you're passionate about to supplement your ministerial studies. She's also a student ambassador, so life is busy, but she loves it. "MLC has been one of the biggest blessings of my life," she says. Someday she'll be a blessing at a WELS elementary or high school—maybe yours.

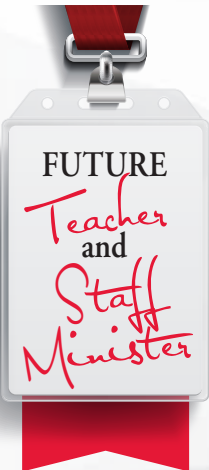


JACOB PRICE

MLC '22

Northland LHS

As a basketball player, a College Choir member, and a Forum (drama club) member, he's ready to bust all the stereotypes. "I'd love to be involved in both the music and sports programs at a school someday. I hope to impress on my students that it's good to use any and all of your God-given talents, even if the combination may not fit stereotypes of the world."



SYDNEY AND ASHLEY PETERSON

MLC '22

Great Plains LHS

They're taking different paths, but both are excited to serve. Sydney would like to be your teacher someday. "I saw the love of God in each of my teachers," she says, "and I wanted to be part of a profession that's centered on displaying that love." Ashley would like to be your staff minister someday. "What drew me was that I could help people in a variety of ways—from parish education to youth ministry to member care and more. It all depends on what the church needs."



Thalassa Prize 2021

The Thalassa Prize is given to recognize a Martin Luther College student or graduate who expresses clearly and beautifully, in image and word, a personal reflection on a ministry experience overseas.



2021 Winner:

Cindy Lendt '09

*“Hasn’t God Chosen
the Poor . . .”*

Every workday my teammate would bike the 35 minutes to her school and then back home again in the evening, and she started to notice two beggars sitting outside a mall with their large tin cans. This is pretty rare; begging isn’t typically allowed in this city.

One day she stopped and talked with them. They wouldn’t say much or go into a restaurant with her, but she ordered takeout and brought it to them. She started cooking larger amounts of food for supper and bringing them home-cooked meals on her way home from school.

That’s when things began to change. They began to talk to her more, and she learned their names: Mr. Zhang and Mr. Fan.

She gave them a solar-powered MP3 player with the New Testament in Chinese (the Proclaimer). They loved it! People would be walking by to enter the mall, and there were the two beggars with the New Testament playing loudly for everyone to hear! Some of their friends—a shop owner, a street sweeper,

and another person—asked how they could get this MP3 player, so my teammate gave away three more Proclaimers.

I’ve been helping with the cooking and delivery, and every time I see them they’re listening to the Bible. Mr. Zhang is blind; I need to put the food container and chopsticks directly into his hands. When I head back for home, they shout out in heavy accents: “gan xie zhu!”—“thank the Lord!”

We’ve known them about four months, and now they’ve asked about going to church. I have no idea how this adventure will continue, but you can guess my prayer: that God would take these physically poor men and make them rich—in him.

Cindy Lendt '09 has served in Southeast Asia since September 2019, doing outreach, leading Bible studies, and building relationships. MLC’s Cultural Engagement Center awarded Cindy \$1,000, half of which she designated to her Southeast Asia mission. This is the 15th annual Thalassa Prize awarded by MLC.

2021 Runner-Up:
Alaina Qualmann '23

“Pure Joy Despite Trials”

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,
whenever you face trials of many kinds”
(James 1:2).

For many of us, this verse is very difficult to put into practice. When we run into trials, it is hard to find joy. You received a cancer diagnosis, yet you are supposed to consider it pure joy? You did not get into the college of your choice, yet your heart should be filled with joy? The one you loved dearly was taken from this earth, and you are expected to respond with joy? It does not seem right. In some cases, it does not even seem possible.

Now picture the 12-year-old who gets three younger siblings ready for school every day because their parents have passed away from illness. Picture the young children standing outside the school gate, longing to enter, but unable to because they cannot afford the minimal school fees. Picture the hungry parents, who only eat one meal a day, searching for any work to make a couple dollars to bring home supper for their family. Are they filled with pure joy despite their trials?

From what I have seen in Zambia, the answer is YES! They are filled with joy! They have joy in their hearts and praise on their lips because they know Jesus who loves them. Even the smallest children sing, “Jesus loves me, this I know” and “Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.” They know they are forgiven through Jesus’ innocent death on the cross. They know the struggles of this earthly life are temporary and eternal life in heaven awaits them.

Our hearts can be filled with pure joy, despite our earthly trials, when we remember victory is ours in heaven, through faith in Christ Jesus.

Alaina Qualmann '23 served at Kuunika Lutheran Community School and Kaunda Square School in Lusaka, Zambia, in 2017 and 2019. She observed classes, assisted in teaching Bible stories, and showed the children the love of Jesus.



Martin Luther College has now begun
accepting submissions for the
16th annual **Thalassa Prize**.

DEADLINE:
April 30, 2022

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:
mlc-wels.edu/Thalassa

ALL PAST WINNERS:
mlc-wels.edu/Thalassa

Focus On Alumni

By Director of Alumni Relations **Steve Balza** DMLC '93



Welcome Back!

After a year with no reunions, we were extremely excited to see classes and groups again gathering here on the hill. Recent visits included the three groups pictured.

Large or small. Graduating class or drama cast. Baseball squad or dorm sisters. MLC is a great place to reunite, reminisce, and rejuvenate with your faith family. Common activities include worship in the Chapel of the Christ, meals in the caf, walking the campus, a picnic or banquet, and bus tours of the town (perhaps with a stop at Schells for some samples). Don't delay! Start planning your 2022 gathering today. Contact the Alumni Relations Office at 507.233.9135 or alumni@mlc-wels.edu.



"Centennial Sisters" from the MLC Class of 2000 coming back to the place where they became "Friends"

Florida Flora and Fauna Tour

Looking to thaw out this winter? Enjoy spending time with members of your faith family and experiencing some awesome aspects of God's creation? Then join the MLC Alumni Association's January 10-25, 2022, trip to fabulous Florida, which will avoid the tourist traps and instead focus on the natural side of the state. Highlights will include The Keys, Everglades National Park, Marie Selby Gardens, Babcock Ranch, Bok Tower Gardens, Myakka River State Park, Silver Springs State Park, the Edison and Ford Winter Estates, and multiple sunsets from some of the state's best beaches.

Contact **Steve Balza**
(507.233.9135 / alumni@mlc-wels.edu) or register here:

Fun Florida Facts

- State motto adopted in 2006: "In God We Trust"
- Nearly half of all tree species in the U.S. grow in Florida
- First in U.S. for production of tomatoes, snap beans, oranges, cucumbers, grapefruit, squash, and sugar cane
- Home to 7700+ lakes, 1000+ springs, and 1000+ golf courses
- January 15 average temps in Sarasota: low 48 / high 75
(New Ulm averages: low 5 / high 23)



Brian Miller
DMLC 1992
Montrose MI



Judith Hoyard
DMLC 1962
Madison WI



Richard Polzin
NWC 1957
Milwaukee



Rachel Trimmer
MLC 2017
Parkville MD



The DMLC Class of 1970 celebrating 50 years + 1 after a 12-month delay



The DMLHS Class of 1956, together again after 65 years

Did you know?

Among the many treasures available on the MLC history web pages (mlc-wels.edu/history) are digitized versions of all MLC, DMLC, and NWC yearbooks. Check them out and see what fun faces you can find!



We Support Our Alma Mater

Hymnals: What experiences do all D/MLC graduates have in common? Perhaps the most popular and important answer is worshipping in chapel. The MLC Alumni Association is happy to help fund the purchase of new *Christian Worship* hymnals so that another generation can "sing a new song to the Lord."



Scholarships: In addition, MLCAA continues to fund an endowed scholarship that provides a \$1,000 award to two students each year. This year's recipients are **Andrew Grady** (*Beautiful Savior-Cincinnati*, left) and **Nathanael Hintze** (*St. Paul-Muskego WI*, right).



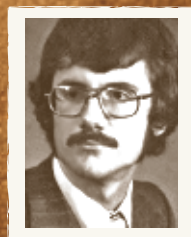
Donate to these projects!



Roger Emmons, Jr.
MLC 2017
Leesville LA



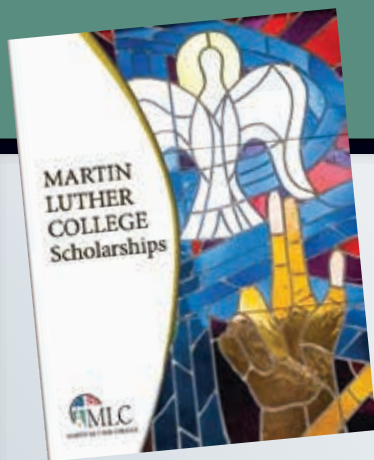
Emily Glodowski
MLC 2002
Fountain City WI



Leo Frese
DMLC 1977
Omaha NE



Tanya Janosek
DMLC 1987
Malawi, Africa



Focus on *Scholarships*

Motivated by love for their Savior and deep respect for the public ministry, many generous donors have established scholarships at MLC. Created in honor of a loved one or in support of a specific ministry training program, these scholarships make a significant impact on the lives of our students and bring glory to our gift-giving God.

The following scholarships were established in 2019-2021:

- 7:9 Scholarship
- Isaac J. Baumann Memorial Scholarship
- Birkholz & Gray Family Scholarship
- Elfred Bloedel Memorial Organ Scholarship
- DMLHS Class of 1956 Scholarship
- Grefe Family Scholarship
- James K. Huhn Memorial Science Scholarship
- Don & Verona Krueger Scholarship
- Zachary Krzmarzick Music Scholarship
- Edward & Rhoda Otterstatter Scholarship
- Edison Sabin Memorial Scholarship
- Service to God and Country Scholarship
- Bob and Evie Strakeljahn Scholarship
- Warner Scholarship
- Washing Feet Scholarship

If you'd like to establish a scholarship at MLC, go to mlc-wels.edu/scholarships or call the Mission Advancement Office at 507.354.8221.



The Zachary Krzmarzick Music Scholarship

This scholarship was established in 2021 by Gary and Marlene Krzmarzick in honor of their son, Zachary (1981-2020).

"Zachary was a gifted and talented musician," his parents say. "He loved music at an early age. At 11, he received his first guitar and taught himself how to play it. From then on, music was always a part of him. He sang in various choirs and musicals, and he played his guitar throughout grade school, high school, and college. After earning a degree in production, recording, and sound management, he recorded and composed music while playing and acting as DJ at venues in Minnesota, Texas, and Kansas."

Because of Zachary's love of music, the family wishes the scholarship be awarded to an MLC student pursuing a music ministry.

Scholarship recipients are MLC students who exhibit scholastic merit and participate in music (choir, band, or individual lessons).



MLC Golf Classic

Community Chips In Scholarship Money and More

The New Ulm community showed their support for the college again this year at the 29th annual MLC Golf Classic. The June 14 event

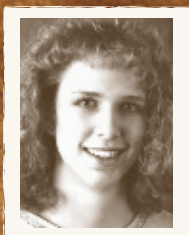
raised \$20,000 for student scholarships and about \$12,000 for a golf simulator at the new Betty Kohn Fieldhouse.

Taking the top spot among the 108 golfers were Matt Pearson, Jeff Anderson, Joey Schugel, and Toby Freier.

"After a challenging year, we were thrilled to have so many golfers come out and support MLC," said Michelle Gartner, MLC event coordinator. "We welcomed a new President's Club member this year, Robert W. Carlstrom Co., Inc., and we're so grateful for our partnership with the entire New Ulm community."



Stephen Kienzel
DMLC 1972
St. Joseph MI



Kristine Lemke
DMLC 1992
Tacoma WA



Thomas Mackey
MLC 2012
Madison WI



Aaron Ewald
MLC 2012
Burton MI



The Don and Verona Krueger Scholarship

This legacy scholarship was established in 2021 by Ken, Keith, and Kevin Krueger and their families, as a tribute to their parents, Don and Verona Krueger.

Don (1932-2000) was very active at St. Matthew-Milwaukee, serving as a

member of the Board of Education and for many years as church treasurer. Verona (1935-2021) was also active at St. Matthew and worked for more than 30 years at the WELS Board for Parish Schools (now WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools).

Don and Verona's priorities were faith and then family. They demonstrated this in many ways, including sending Ken, Keith, and Kevin to Lutheran elementary and high schools. Don and Verona held Lutheran educators in high regard, according to the boys, particularly appreciating "the dedication and spirit of the pastors and teachers who dedicated their lives to the upbringing of young people." Ken, Keith, and Kevin carried on the tradition, sending their children—Don and Verona's eight grandchildren—to Lutheran schools as well.

This scholarship, then, comes from a place of gratitude and respect. "We want to honor Mom and Dad by establishing this scholarship to support future generations of called workers in bringing little ones (and not so little ones) to the Lord."

Income from this scholarship endowment fund is distributed to MLC education majors who demonstrate both scholastic merit and financial need.



The Grefe Family Scholarship

This scholarship was established in 2020 by Ethan and Rebekah Grefe.

Mr. and Mrs. Grefe are both graduates of WELS grade schools and area Lutheran

high schools. They've been blessed with two young sons and plan to provide them with a Christian education in WELS schools as well.

One of their sons has a developmental disability. "We are grateful to God for his gift of a son with a developmental disability," they say. "It is our prayer that children with special needs may grow spiritually and academically through a Christ-centered education. We are excited to support and encourage the training of teachers who have a heart for serving students with special needs in our WELS schools."

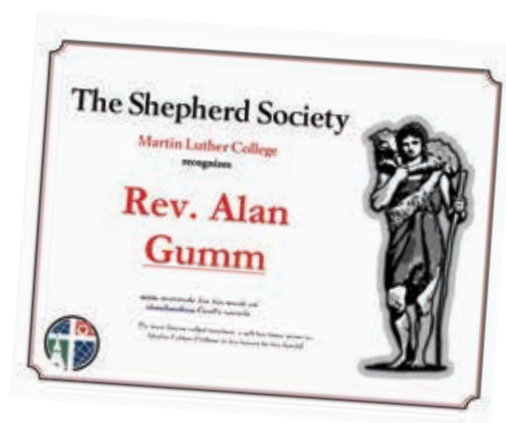
Scholarship recipients are juniors and seniors with a special education major who have submitted a compelling essay explaining why they are seeking a special education degree, who show promise for serving those with special educational needs, and who demonstrate financial need.

The Shepherd Society

Founded in 2008, the Shepherd Society is comprised of called workers who've been recognized for making a difference in people's lives through their ministries. The called workers nominated for the Shepherd Society receive a commemorative plaque with a personal Certificate of Appreciation from the MLC president. Anyone may nominate a pastor, teacher, or staff minister for the Shepherd Society at mlc-wels.edu/go/shepherd-society.

The following called workers have recently been added to the Shepherd Society:

• Doug Fillner • Mark Zarling • Alan Gumm • Lois Wittrock



Lee Ann Hanke
DMLC 1967
Minnesota City MN



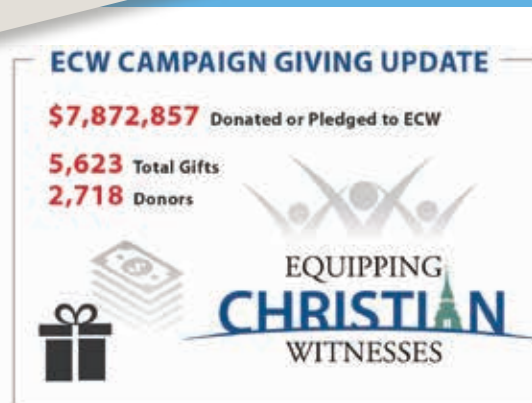
Randall Kuznicki
NWC 1972
Saginaw MI



Daniel Falck
NWC 1962
Neenah WI



Douglas Becker
MLC 2012
Johnston RI



ECW Sundays

We're grateful to the following congregations for inviting MLC faculty members to speak about "Equipping Christian Witnesses."

Hope-Indian River MI	Jul 18 Pastor Joel Thomford
St. Matthew-Winona MN	Jul 24-25 Professor Nick Schmoller
St. Paul-Wonewoc WI	Jul 25 President Rich Gurgel
Mt. Olive-Appleton WI	Jul 25 Professor David Scharf
Messiah-Johns Creek GA	Jul 25 Dr. Keith Wessel
Crown of Life-West St. Paul	Aug 14-16 President Rich Gurgel
St. John-Sleepy Eye MN	Aug 29 Professor Nick Schmoller
Messiah-Olympia WA	Sep 26 Professor David Scharf
Good Shepherd-Novu MI	Oct 10 Professor David Scharf
Trinity-Kiel WI	Oct 17 President Rich Gurgel
King of Kings-Maitland FL	Nov 4-9 President Rich Gurgel
St. Paul-Winneconne WI	Nov 6-7 Professor David Scharf
Abiding Word-Houston	Nov 18-22 President Rich Gurgel
Abiding Grace-Covington GA	Nov 21 Professor David Scharf
Our Savior-Birmingham AL	Jan 16 Professor David Scharf
Immanuel-Wilmar MN	Feb 20 Professor Paul Koelpin
St. Matthew-Appleton W	Apr 24 Professor David Scharf

Watch for updates on the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse Dedication!



We'd also like to thank those pastors serving as Christian giving counselors who have represented the college at other congregations. Their names are too many to mention!

If your congregation would like a preacher and Bible study leader during second semester, please email Beth Scharf at scharfbm@mlc-wels.edu.

Pastor Thomas Schroeder NWC '90, WLS '94 (pictured left) of Good Shepherd-Novu MI invited MLC **Professor David Scharf** MLC '00, WLS '05 to preach for an ECW Sunday.



Watch Our ECW Videos

WELS 2021 Biennial Convention

MLC's 2020-2021 Student Senate President **Phil Balge** (now a student at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) narrates an overview of our campaign, including testimonies from alumni and friends all over the synod.



October 2021 WELS Connection

Hear MLC President Rich Gurgel and others talk about the importance of the campaign, see some students in action, and get an aerial view of our beautiful campus.





Governing Board Meets, *Welcomes New Chair*

The Martin Luther College Governing Board met on campus September 30-October 1, led by the new chair, **Pastor Aaron Mueller** MLC '99, WLS '04.

Pastor Mueller is excited for the future of the WELS College of Ministry. "The students I've interacted with, my future coworkers, have been incredible," he said. "They're thankful for the MLC culture and environment, and they're looking forward to ministry. The Cultural Engagement Center is a wonderful addition with Professor Robinson, Professor Schwartz, and Mrs. Kassuelke. I'm very excited to see this start and flourish! Since I first stepped foot in the Chapel of the Christ a few days ago, I see what an overwhelming blessing it is. And to think the next time I return to MLC, the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse will be completed. The blessings abound—and I've just scratched the surface. This is just a fantastic place to be!"

He also made note of the challenges we face—as a college and a synod. "It's no secret that across our church body, we're in a worker shortage. Student recruitment, retention, and ministry readiness will always be of critical importance. I've been very impressed with the MLC administration and their efforts to address these issues. I'm also thankful for the support so many have given toward the Equipping Christian Witnesses campaign."

As Mueller looks ahead, he also looks up. "The issues we face in life and ministry will always have us looking to God in faith and pleading with him in prayer. As God continues to shake the nations, the ministry opportunities abound. My prayer for the future of MLC is that he uses us to meet the diverse

ministry needs of WELS. By training qualified and competent servants of the Lord, MLC remains the city on a hill Jesus envisioned. I want nothing more than for his light to continue to reach the ends of the earth."

President Rich Gurgel is grateful for Pastor Mueller's acceptance of this new leadership role and also for the many years of service by outgoing chair, **Pastor Michael Woldt** NWC '76, WLS '80. "As we welcome our new governing board chairman," Gurgel said, "we want to thank God one more time for the 12 years of faithful service to MLC and our synod by Pastor Michael Woldt. His steady leadership was a blessing to our college of ministry in many, many ways!"

Front: Mark Wessel NWC '82, WLS '86, David Uhlhorn MLC '99, '17 Daniel Leyrer NWC '85, WLS '89, Michael Lindemann NWC '87, WLS '91 (vice chair), Dale Krause, Aaron Mueller (chair); **middle:** Andrew Van Weele MLC '04, Michael Krueger (advisory), Michael Valteau (member-at-large), Mark Schroeder NWC '77, WLS '81 (WELS president, advisory), Joel Lauber MLC '06, Duane Rodewald NWC '85, WLS '89 (Board for Ministerial Education chair, advisory); **back:** Geoffrey Kieta NWC '89, WLS '93 (secretary), Timothy Petermann, Paul Prange NWC '84, WLS '88 (Ministerial Education administrator, advisory), Joe Archer DMLC '78, Dennis Klatt NWC '84, WLS '88 (Minnesota District president, advisory), Thomas Walters (advisory), Richard Gurgel NWC '81, WLS '86 (MLC president, advisory). *Not pictured:* Thomas Klaut.

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Dr. James Carlovsky MLC '02, MLC '10 (math & science) presented two sectionals entitled "Google Classroom and a Few Other Things You Didn't Know Google Can Do" and "Are There Other Powerful Ways to Help My Students Learn Math?" at the Michigan District Teachers' Conference at Salem-Owosso MI in October.

Dr. Benjamin Clemons MLC '03 (dean of Education and Staff Ministry, director of Urban Ministry) earned his EdD from Johns Hopkins University. His dissertation, "Preservice Teachers' Educational Attributions and Expectations," focused on student views of urban education.

Laurie Gauger-Hested DMLC '87 (writer/editor) saw publication of her hymn for refugees, "Look Down, O Lord, and See," in *Hymns for Our Contemporary World* (Jubilate) in September. Along with her son Philip Biedenbender, she was also commissioned to write a New Ulm city anthem, which debuted in September.



Professor Paul Grubbs MLC '01 (English) presented "Does Christian Pop Feed the Soul? Assessing the Texts of Contemporary Praise Songs" at the OWLS Convention in New Ulm MN in October.

Professor Grace Hennig DMLC '89 (music) spoke about the new *Christian Worship* hymnal suite at the Minnesota District Teachers' Conference at West LHS in October. She was also commissioned by the MLC Women's Choir to compose an anthem, "Midnight Hour," for this year's Christmas concert.

Professor Paul Koelpin NWC '85, WLS '89 (theology & history) presented several sessions on "Post-Exilic and Intertestamental History" at the Crow River Fall Pastoral Conference in September. He presented "Lessons from the Immigrant Generation," which focused on the earliest Lutheran immigrants to Wisconsin, at the OWLS Convention in New Ulm MN in October. He was also invited to preach for the area Reformation service held at MLC on October 31.



Professor Paul Koelpin was interviewed on the Protestant Reformation by a University of Oklahoma think tank, GEAR UP for the FUTURE K20 Center. The video interview is now included in a middle and high school world history curriculum designed by the K20 Center.

The Koelpin-Oklahoma connection was made by MLC alumna **Margaret (Polzin) Salesky** MLC '07, who serves as the center's English curriculum specialist.

Dr. Kari Mueente MLC '99 (social sciences) presented "Improving Student Engagement Through the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Framework" at a Lakeside LHS faculty inservice in October. At the National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference (virtual) in November, she presented "Using Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to Support Inquiry for All Learners." At the College and University Faculty Assembly (CUFA) Annual Conference, she led a roundtable discussion, "Necessity Is the Mother of Innovation: Considering the lasting impacts of the pandemic on social studies teacher education." Mueente also serves as conference chair of the Small College and University Faculty Forum, an affiliated forum of CUFA.



Professor Thomas Nass NWC '77, WLS '82 (Hebrew) was elected president of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference at its online meeting in May.

Dr. Mark Paustian NWC '84, WLS '88 (English & Hebrew) presented "I Am Convinced: A Devotional Appropriation of Romans 8 to the Life of the Pastor" at the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Symposium on Pastoral Wellness in September.

Instructor Michael Plocher DMLC '93, MLC '16 (education) presented two sectionals entitled "A Path for STEM" and "PLTW – Gateway" at the Minnesota District Teachers' Conference at West LHS in October.



Peter Martin
NWC 1992
Port Charlotte FL



Joanne Hornburg
DMLC 1967
Eden WI



Richard Tuttle
NWC 1987
Perry GA



Daniel Schiessel
DMLC 1982
Eagle CO



Catherine St. John MLC '13 (lead teacher, ECLC) earned her MED in early childhood education from Northern Arizona University.

Dr. Jonathan Schaefer MLC '02 (director of New Teacher Induction) earned his PhD in educational psychology from Capella University. He's been invited to share his thesis, "In Sync: A Qualitative Study of

Asynchronous Online Teacher Mentor Training," with the New Teacher Center headquartered in Santa Cruz CA.



Professor David Scharf MLC '00, WLS '05 (theology) wrote 20 devotions for *Grace Moments*, a Time of Grace-Milwaukee publication. He presented "Doctrine and Practice of Stewardship" at the Joint Pastors' Getaway Conference in Osthoff WI in October. He presented the keynote, "God's Vision for the Future," and a workshop,

"Starting a Spiritual Conversation," at the Men of His Word conference in Rochester MN in October. He presented "Just You and Jesus" at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference at Wisconsin LHS in October. He presented a Bible class series on stewardship at St. Paul-New Ulm MN this fall. He preached at joint Reformation services in Anchorage AK and Tucson AZ in October. He preached for chapel and gave a stewardship presentation at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in October. He presented "Starting a Spiritual Conversation" at the campus ministry of Minnesota State University, Mankato in November. And he continues to serve as writer/editor of the monthly *Forward in Christ* "Q & A" column.

Professor Nicolas Schmoller MLC '06, WLS '10 (theology & foreign language) wrote "Bible Contradictions?" for the August 2021 issue of *Forward in Christ*. He presented a Bible class series on the intertestamental period at St. Paul-New Ulm MN this fall. He also participated in an author panel, along with **Dr. Mark Paustian** and **Professor Luke Thompson**, at the Christian Leadership Experience virtual conference in June. They discussed their book *Quick to Listen*, emphasizing the importance of listening well to groups outside the Christian experience in order to aid our witness to them.



Professor Tingting Z. Schwartz MLC '15 (social science & secondary education, international coordinator) and her husband, Daniel Schwartz, co-facilitated a pre-departure training workshop on intercultural learning for Friends Network new teachers in July. She presented "Understanding Cultural Differences in Education Through Cultural Dimensions

Between China and the U.S." to a group of first-generation Chinese Americans online. She also wrote three blog posts for *Issues in Lutheran Education*: 1) What's in Your Student's Lunch Box?, 2) What Language Do the Parents of Your Students Speak?, and 3) What Books Are on Your Classroom Bookshelf?



Professor Ross Stelljes NWC '85, WLS '89 (theology) has been invited to serve on the WELS Chaplain Certificate Program Committee.

Professor Alan Uher DMLC '87 (education) presented "Engaging the Disengaged" at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference at Wisconsin LHS in October.



Dr. Keith Wessel NWC '87 WLS '91 (Latin & Greek) created a video presentation of his essay "Christian Freedom" for the biennial convention of the Confessional Church-Norway (LBK) in July. He spoke about Lutheranism in Scandinavia—especially WELS relations with Sweden, Norway, and Finland—at the LWMS Rally in Caledonia

WI in October. And he presented the essay "Sola Fide" at the Menomonie Pastoral Conference in October.



John Moldstad
NWC 1947
Mankato MN



Sarah Kruschel
DMLC 1987
Port Orange FL



Kurt Vaaler
NWC 1982
Elgin ND



James Cloute
NWC 1972
Fort Atkinson WI

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Welcoming New Faculty in 2021-2022



Rev. Aaron Robinson MLC '96, WLS '00 Cultural Diversity Coordinator & Professor of English

Aaron previously served as co-founder and pastor of Sure Foundation-Woodside NY, as instructor at St. Croix Lutheran Academy and Wisconsin LHS, and as pastor of Fairview-Milwaukee. He and his wife, Elisabeth, have five children, Esther (20), Olivia (18), Arthur (15), Amaya (13), and Isaiah (11).



Rev. Philip Schroeder MLC '17, WLS '21 Theology Instructor & Dorm Supervisor

Phil served his vicar year at St. Martin-Watertown SD and graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2021. He and his wife, Sarah (nee Hackbarth MLC '17), have a son, Solomon (1).



Rev. Orie Thomford MLC '16, WLS '21 Theology Instructor & Dorm Supervisor

Orie served his vicar year at Abiding Grace-Covington GA and emergency taught at Manitowoc LHS before graduating from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2021. His father, Rev. Joel Thomford, is an admissions counselor at MLC, and his brother Hans preceded him as a tutor at MLC.



Rev. Luke Thompson MLC '09, WLS '13 Professor of Theology & History

Luke earned a BA in English from Wisconsin Lutheran College and an MA in philosophy from Marquette University before completing the Seminary Certification program at MLC in 2009 and graduating from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2013. He previously served as an instructor at Wisconsin Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran College and as pastor of St. Paul-Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. He and his wife, Christine, have two children, Soren (9) and Simone (6).



Rev. Daniel Waldschmidt MLC '08, WLS '12 Professor of Greek & Theology

Dan earned an MA from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in addition to his ministry training at MLC and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He previously served as pastor of St. John-Burlington WI. He and his wife, Cori, have four children, Luke (6), James (4), Justus (3), and Magdalena (1).

Encouraging MLC Grads in Grenada

Professor Emeritus Thomas Hunter DMLC '75 visited Grenada for a month late this summer to serve God's people there and re-engage with MLC alumni teaching at Grace Lutheran School. He assisted with worship, led congregational and faculty Bible studies, and presented topics on "Effective Interpersonal Communication in an Intercultural Setting" over four days of professional development for the church and school faculty and staff.

Grace serves about 120 students, pre-K to grade 6, from 13 different countries.

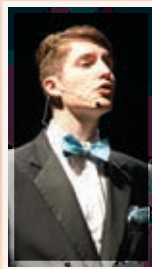
Recently retired from his position as MLC's director of International Services, Hunter continues to support and celebrate MLC's global outreach. The three teachers at Grace pictured with him, he explains, exemplify the diverse backgrounds of a growing number of MLC graduates.

From left: **Evodia Cassius-Noel** MLC '16 came from Trinity-St. Lucia, was assigned back there, and then was called by Grace-Grenada. Hunter installed her in her new call at a Sunday service in August. **Elizabeth Bartz** MLC '20 was born in the United States, but lived many years in Africa and is now teaching in Grenada. And **Tassia-Channel Wolf** MLC '18 was born in St. Lucia, lived and worked in France, served as a private tutor for a British family while they sailed home from St. Lucia, and then came to MLC as a second-career student. She now serves as assistant principal at Grace.

"Not only is the WELS a small world," Hunter says, "but it is truly intercultural!" The picture shows a story becoming more common: servants from different backgrounds, following different paths, united in ministry in ways they had not planned.



Eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, *Light from Light...*



Dear friends,

Greetings to you from
Martin Luther College!

This is normally a bustling place. Students hurry from chapel to class to music hall to gym, working hard to learn all they can, looking forward to serving you one day as a pastor, teacher, or staff minister.

But sometimes, when night falls and the snow silences the din, the whole campus family quiets. It's a chance to slow down and reflect even more deeply on God's grace, which culminated in the gift of his Son at Christmas. Jesus Christ . . . God from God, Light from light.

As you slow down this Christmas to ponder the wonder of God's grace, would you consider a gift to Martin Luther College? Your donation will help support everything we do on this campus, from those boisterous classroom discussions to those contemplative moments of worship and prayer.



Rich Gurgel
President, Martin Luther College



Give online: mlc-wels.edu/donate
Or text **GIVE** to **507.223.4344**



FOOTBALL



ALUMNI MIXER



DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT



IRON CHEF



FAMILY FUN ZONE



SPRINTER FUN RUN



WELCOME,
ALL ALUMNI!



HOMECOMING TREATS

HOMECOMING 2021



TALENT SHOW



WORSHIP SERVICE