

# MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE INFOCUS

YEAR IN REVIEW 2021-2022



*New  
Strategic  
Plan*

PAGES 11-26

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

Address Service Requested

1995 Luther Court  
New Ulm, MN 56073



WRITER/EDITOR

Laurie Gauger DMLC '87

COPY EDITOR

Heidi Schoof DMLC '86

MLC PHOTOGRAPHY TEAM\*

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Lime Valley Advertising, Inc.

Leah Matzke

Katherine Schmoller

Office of Mission Advancement

VP for MISSION ADVANCEMENT

Mark Maurice

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

William Pekrul DMLC '80

ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Steve Balza DMLC '93

College Administration

PRESIDENT

Rich Gurgel NWC '81, WLS '86

VP for ACADEMICS

Jeffery Wiechman DMLC '90

VP for ADMINISTRATION

Scott Schmudlach DMLC '85

VP for ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Theodore Klug MLC '97

VP for MISSION ADVANCEMENT

Mark Maurice

VP for STUDENT LIFE

Jeffrey Schone NWC '83, WLS '87

\*Professor William Pekrul DMLC '80,

Levi Stelljes '22, Benjamin Hahm '23,

Haley Martin '24, Madison Rich '22,

Elena Thoma '22, Ryan Kohl '23,

Grace Waldschmidt '23



Commencement Photos & More

On the cover:

Commencement 2022

# Commencement Sermon:



*The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

*"Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."*

*But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD. Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."*

Jeremiah 1:4-10

... What exactly will the days ahead hold for you? For those of you heading to the seminary to complete your preparation for pastoral ministry ... for those eagerly waiting to hear about your call into teaching or staff ministry ... for those of you receiving your master's degree ... how will the next years go, and will you be ready for the opportunities and challenges that come your way? Thoughts of the future can lead us to be more than a bit fearful and anxious.

In the portion of Scripture you selected, Jeremiah expressed fear and dismay about his calling as God's prophet. "Ah, Sovereign Lord," he said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

We congratulate the 150 undergraduate students and 20 graduate students who earned their degrees at Commencement on May 14, 2022. **Rev. Dr. Timothy Grundmeier** presided at the Commencement Service. **Rev. Dr. Richard Gurgel** preached the sermon (see an excerpt above). **Dr. Jeffery Wiechman** assisted with the diploma distribution.

In the Saturday afternoon Call Service, 125 teacher candidates (including some from previous years) were assigned to every level, from preschool to high school. (See assignments on pages 27-29.)



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](mailto: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.





# An excerpt

By President Rich Gurgel NWC '81, WLS '86

And he was right! Notice that God doesn't argue with him by saying, "No, no, Jeremiah. Don't underestimate yourself! You're capable and strong. You'll do just fine!"

Instead, the Lord takes his fearful young prophet's eyes off himself and puts them on God's love and grace. And those promises of love and grace are also for you this day!

The Lord begins with his promise of electing love. He knew you in Christ before you were born—before he created the world! That you sit here today, trusting in Jesus' forgiving love, is no accident. He knew he'd bring you to faith before there even was a you.

He continues with his *appointing* love. Whether you are going to serve him in public ministry or in another godly calling, God appointed you to that long before this day. Nothing revealed today, or four years from now, or beyond that, will ever catch God by surprise.

He continues with his *directing* love. The places you will go and the people with whom you'll live and work—all of that God has delighted to think through for you before the world began. You will never cross anyone's path by accident, and God will never be at a loss for what he can give you to say.

He continues with his *protecting* love. Yes, God is sending you out to a world that hates the message of Jesus as its only Savior—and hates those who bear that message. But he is with you and holds you securely in his hands, marked by the nails he took for you.

He continues with his *equipping* love. Now God hasn't given you a special sign, as he did for Jeremiah, by touching your lips to put his Word into your mouth. But let me ask: What's God been doing in your life ever since the water of baptism was wet on your forehead? Through parents and family, through pastors, teachers, and staff ministers, he's been placing his Word into your mouth day after day. That's what your time on this campus has been all about as well.

Just like Jeremiah, you live in a confused and confusing world. And just like Jeremiah, God is sending you—yes, you!—into that world to make a difference for his eternal kingdom. Whenever you want to recoil from that in fear, thinking that you are only a child, listen again to how the Lord answers you, just as he did Jeremiah. His grace has been at work from eternity to prepare you for this very place and time.



## BY THE NUMBERS

**170** GRADUATES

**11** MASTER OF SCIENCE-EDUCATION

**7** MASTER OF SCIENCE-EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

**2** MASTER OF ARTS-THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

**102** BACHELOR OF SCIENCE-EDUCATION or BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

**48** BACHELOR OF ARTS or SEMINARY CERTIFICATION (PRESEMINARY)



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



Vera  
Huth  
DMLC 1947  
Slinger WI



Phillip  
Lepak  
NWC 1992  
Houghton MI





### CHAMPS! Women's cross country team clinches the UMAC championship.

Four men and women runners earn First Team All-UMAC honors: **Abigail Buege** (*Victory of the Lamb-Katy TX*), **Hannah Kratz** (*Our Savior-Birmingham AL*), **Ryan Maertz** (*St. Martin-Watertown SD*), and **Camden Sulzle** (*St. John-Redwood Falls MN*).



### GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

MLC dorm staff welcomes first-years to campus.



### KNIGHT NATION:

Our Admissions Office is ready to inform and inspire high school students considering MLC.



### FINALLY!

Ms. Scharf's dog, Wilson, couldn't be happier to see the students again.



### KNIGHT WINDS:

The Homecoming concert is one of several the Wind Symphony presented in '21-'22.



**Stephen Schmidt**  
NWC 1992  
Coon Rapids MN



**Louisa Kahrs**  
MLC 2017  
Clatonia NE



**Robert Otterstatter**  
DMLC 1952  
Tappen ND



**Marjorie Maltz**  
DMLC 1947  
Watertown WI



# K N I G H T S ' 2 1 - ' 2 2



## KNIGHTS FOOTBALL:

Fans gather at the bowl.



## FOOTBALL ACCOLADES:

**Andrew Owczarzak** (Bethel-Bay City MI, wearing the cast) is named Second Team All-America by the American Football Coaches Association, Third Team All-Region by D3football.com, and First Team All-UMAC. He starts all five seasons at right tackle, playing 44 games and helping the Knights to one of the best ground attacks in NCAA Division III.

**Carson Oestreich** (Immanuel-Hadar NE, #7) makes First Team All-UMAC in both football and track. And **Joshuah Kren** (Trinity-Waukesha WI) breaks a college record for career yards per carry (6.88).



First Team All-UMAC honors also go to **Ben Arndt** (Good Shepherd-Burnsville MN), **Adam Arrowsmith** (Trinity-Bay City MI), **Abel Bain** (St. Peter-Appleton WI), **Carrington Cunningham** (Wisconsin LHS), **Aiden Holien** (St. Martin-Watertown WI), **Noah Nordlie** (Divine Grace-Orion MI), and **Ben Riegsecker** (Mt. Olive-Lincoln NE).



## COMING HOME!

Alumni and parents fill the campus for Homecoming, enjoying the Sprinter Fun Run and loads of other events.



## COME TO MY GARDEN:

Forum presents the musical *The Secret Garden*.



**Yaffet Gabayehu**  
MLC 2017  
Lewis Center OH



**Kristin Schaser**  
DMLC 1992  
Darian IL



**Paul Zimmermann**  
DMLC 1957  
Fairfax MN



**Jane Huseman**  
DMLC 1982  
Yorktown IA





## GOD'S PEOPLE SING:

*Christian Worship: Hymnal* finds its home in MLC's chapel, and students begin exploring this resource they will employ throughout their ministries.



## WE'RE COOL WITH IT:

Students embrace the Minnesota cold and snow during Winter Carnival.



## IT'S WHY WE'RE HERE:

Dozens of Evangelism Day speakers inspire MLC students to share the gospel—now and in their future ministries.



## MLC & MLK:

MLC students mark MLK Day by exploring issues of race and culture—and thanking our Savior Jesus, who died for all.



## ONE FAITH, ONE HOPE, ONE LORD:

MLC hosts the WELS National Choral Festival.



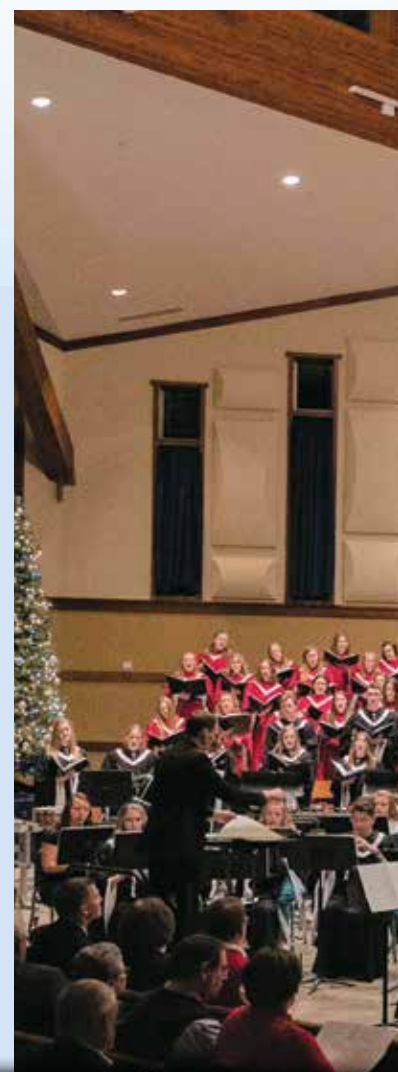
## HOOP IT UP:

Hoopster **Jordyn Heckendorf** (*Shepherd of the Hills-West Bend WI*) earns Honorable Mention honors in basketball (and First-Team honors in softball come spring.) Heckendorf's leadership on the court helped the Knights notch their first-ever defeat of the University of Wisconsin Superior.



## JESUS' LOVE IN EVERY LANGUAGE:

International students share their experiences during International Education Week in our Cultural Engagement Center.



**Pamela Lentz**  
DMLC 1982  
Watertown SD



**Sheldon Twenge**  
NWC 1962  
Chokio MN



**Maria Sebald**  
DMLC 1992  
Wauwatosa WI



**Justin Marshall**  
MLC 2017  
Dickinson TX





## FORUM PRESENTS:

MLC's drama club stages *The Westing Game* and *MLC: The Real World*.



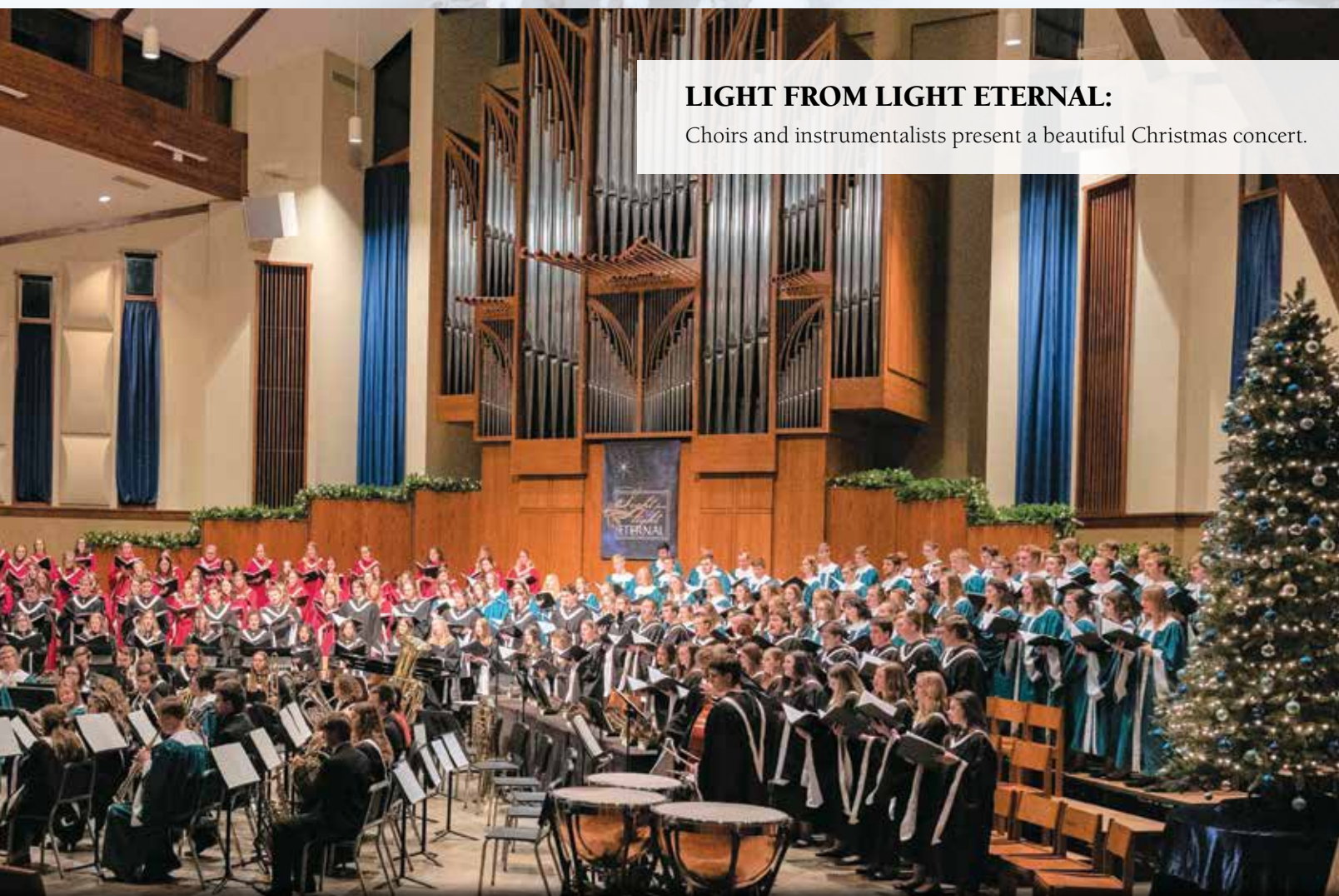
## THANK YOU, DONORS!

Students, coaches, and profs make good use of the new Betty Kohn Fieldhouse when it's cold and wet outside.



## PRACTICE IN THE PULPIT:

Preseminary students speak at evening chapel all year long.



## LIGHT FROM LIGHT ETERNAL:

Choirs and instrumentalists present a beautiful Christmas concert.



**Sharon Molkentin**  
DMLC 1977  
Tampa FL



**Theodore Manthe**  
DMLC 1992  
Oak Creek WI



**Robyn Brukardt**  
MLC 2012  
Appleton WI



**Mark Boileau**  
DMLC 1982  
Ottawa ON  
Canada



# DAYS & KNIGHTS '21 - '22



## SMASHING RECORDS:

Both track & field teams break records for most points at UMAC Championships: men (182.5) and women (140). Other record breakers are **Emily Dobberstein** (St. Matthew-Winona MN) in 400 Meter Hurdles (1:06.7) and **Caleb Foelske** (Bethany-Manitowoc WI) in shot put (14.93 meters), discus (45.46 meters), and hammer (40.6 meters). First Team All-UMAC honors go to **Emily Dobberstein**, **Margaret Gabb** (St. Paul-Beverly Hills FL), **Maya Habben** (Mt. Calvary-Flagstaff AZ), **Emma Nelson** (St. John-Redwood Falls MN), **Carson Oestreich** (Immanuel-Hadar NE), **Ally Platzer** (Shepherd of the Hills-Lansing MI), **Zach Scheuerlein** (Christ Alone-Thiensville WI), **Micah Schibbelhut** (St. Paul-Onalaska WI), and **Claire Tomhave** (St. Paul-Lake Mills WI).



## I'M GOING TO BE A TEACHER:

First-year education majors put their developing teaching skills to work during Early Field Experience.



## ELIJAH!

Choirs and instrumentalists masterfully present Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah*.



## BATTER UP:

The Knights baseball team is boosted by the bat of **Mason Cox** (St. Paul-New Ulm MN). He earns First Team All-UMAC honors and breaks three school records on the way: single-season batting average (.474), single-season on-base percentage (.540), and single-season hits (tied at 50).



## ANOTHER HOMER:

The Knights softball team is led by **Elena Hoffman** (St. Martin-Watertown SD), who is named Second Team All-Region by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association and First Team All-UMAC. She breaks four softball records this spring: career home runs (23), career RBI (124), career batting average (.404), and single-season RBI (52). Teammate **Lisa Hoffer** (St. Paul-New Ulm MN) breaks the school record for single-season runs (41).



## WE CALL IT DAYLIGHT:

Spring break takes students to volunteer opportunities all over the country, including Amarillo, Texas, where 10 of them work at a food bank under the direction of Pastor Hans Thomford. Most students at MLC complete one Daylight trip before they graduate.



## THOUSANDS OF KIDS:

MLC's auditorium is filled to the brim many times over as buses of children come from miles around to see Forum's production, *The Elves and the Shoemaker*.



## PERFORMING & INFORMING:

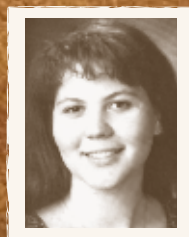
During weekday stops on their May tour, the Wind Symphony not only perform; they also inform. Here, **Natalie Zirbel** (Zion-Greenleaf WI) teaches children about her clarinet.



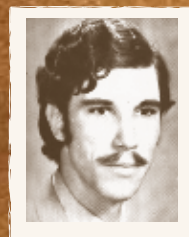
**Lois Ann Buss**  
DMLC 1957  
Manitowoc WI



**Tom Zietlow**  
NWC 1987  
Anchorage AK



**Melanie Hahn**  
MLC 1997  
Oak Creek WI



**Roger Wahl**  
NWC 1972  
Kenton OH





## USING GOD'S GIFTS:

10 students perform in the May Honors Recital:

**Ben Foster** (*Emanuel-Lansing MI*) organ  
**Jacob Price** (*St. Peter-Schofield WI*) voice  
**Carl Boeder** (*St. John-New Ulm MN*) voice  
**Josiah Loersch** (*St. Mark-Watertown WI*) piano  
**Ryan Kluba** (*St. John-Two Rivers WI, pictured*) voice  
**Owen Eubank** (*Christ-Saginaw MI*) organ  
**Maria Werre** (*Peace-Sun Prairie WI*) voice  
**Hope Sulzle** (*St. John-Redwood Falls MN*) piano  
**Derek Gulrud** (*St. John-Waterloo WI*) voice  
**Levi Stelljes** (*St. Paul-New Ulm MN*) organ



## CHOIR TOUR:

College Choir sings with the children of St. Peter-Fort Collins CO on one stop of their spring break tour.

## ACADEMIC ALL-UMAC:

MLC athletes lead the conference in academic excellence in '21-'22. MLC wins the highest team GPA award in 11 of 16 sports, and 203 individuals—more than any other conference college—notch GPAs of 3.50 or better, meriting Academic All-Conference status.



## BITTERSWEET GOODBYE:

We're sad to see them go, but what a joy to know they're taking the next step! Some are starting pastoral training at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, and others are making their new homes with you—sharing the gospel at your church and school.



**Lois Sievert**  
 DMLC 1967  
 New Ulm MN



**Seth Jaeger**  
 MLC 2007  
 Johnson Creek WI



**Marcella Hoefler**  
 DMLC 1962  
 Winner SD



**Robert Hill**  
 DMLC 1967  
 Inkster MI





## 2022 Senior Achievement Award Recipients

*Back row:*

**Seth Koelpin** (*Calvary-Dallas*)

MLC Student Body President Recognition

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

MLC Service Award

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

MLC Leading Scholar for Pastoral Ministry Studies

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

Brooks Scholarship, Jerome Kruse Knight Award for Athletic Achievement, Via Veritas Vita Award

**Jonas Landwehr** (*Divine Savior-Doral FL*)

MLC Leading Scholar for Pastoral Ministry Studies

**Katelyn Aswege** (*Mt. Olive-St. Paul*)

Jerome Kruse Knight Award for Athletic Achievement

*Front row:*

**Justin Schroeder** (*Faith-Sharpsburg GA*)

MLC Leading Scholar for Pastoral Ministry Studies

**Aiden Holien** (*St. Martin-Watertown SD*)

UMAC Knight Scholar-Athlete Leadership Award

**Kaelyn Holdcroft** (*St. Paul-Appleton WI*)

UMAC Knight Scholar-Athlete Leadership Award

**Mariah Werre** (*Peace-Sun Prairie WI*)

MLC Fine Arts Award

**Megan Buth** (*Faith-Sharpsburg GA*)

MLC Leading Scholar for Educational Ministry Studies

*Not pictured:*

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

MLC Leading Scholar for Pastoral Ministry Studies



## 2022 NWC Alumni Society President Fund Grant Recipients

**Ezra Blumer** (*NorthCross-Lakeville MN*)

Robert J. Voss Grant for Excellence in Student Life

**Josiah Winkel** (*Redemption-Milwaukee*)

Lewis O. Thompson Grant for Excellence in Worship and Music

**Joel Schewe** (*Peace-Janesville WI*)

E.E. Kowalke Grant for Excellence in Biblical Languages (Greek)

**Joseph Wessel** (*St. John-New Ulm MN*)

August F. Ernst Grant for Excellence in Confessional Languages (Latin)

**Caleb Hengst** (*Christ Alone-Fort Worth TX*)

Adam Martin Grant for Excellence in Living Languages (Spanish)

**Doug Zabel** (*St. John-Lake City MN*)

Carleton Toppe Grant for Excellence in GPA and Religion

**Zach Gregorius** (*St. Luke-Watertown WI*)

John A. Braun Grant for Excellence in English

**Ben Hillmer** (*St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI*)

John A. Braun Grant for Excellence in Leadership

**Sam Engel** (*St. John-Red Wing MN*)

August F. Ernst Grant for Excellence in Confessional Languages (German)

**Calvin Arstein** (*Cross of Christ-Boise ID*)

E.E. Kowalke Grant for Excellence in Biblical Languages (Hebrew)

**JuanDa Escobar** (*Divine Savior-Doral FL*)

Robert J. Voss Grant for Excellence in Student Government

**Jacob Schwark** (*First-Elkhorn WI*)

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





*Pursuing Excellence*  
UNDER THE CROSS



# Strategic Plan

PAGES 11-26



Dear Readers,



As members of WELS, you have given us a task of enormous importance. Eternal importance.

You have asked Martin Luther College to train pastors, teachers, and staff ministers for WELS congregations, schools, and missions around the world. We are humbled and honored to do this work you have entrusted to us.

For the last three years, you've helped us make great strides through *Equipping Christian Witnesses*. Together, we've built the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse. Together, we've funded countless matching grants in the Congregational Partner Grant Program. Together, we've encouraged many in a new generation to consider training for gospel ministry. Thank you.

But our partnership in raising up a new generation of gospel workers isn't a quick sprint. It's more like a marathon. Thankful for the momentum gained these past three years, we are transitioning to a new strategic plan called *Pursuing Excellence Under the Cross*. It builds on how God has blessed us during *Equipping Christian Witnesses* and asks for God's ongoing blessings. As you read, you'll see that we have bold goals. That's because we are fulfilling a Great Commission.

As we share our goals, you'll notice a thread running through them: recruitment. Even as we train today's candidates for ministry, we keep our eye on tomorrow's candidates as well. We are intent on enrolling more and more students who have the heart and the gifts for ministry.

Let's think about these prospective students for a moment. They're pondering two decisions:

- What will I do with my life?
- Where will I spend the next four years pursuing that goal?

This is key! They are comparing college campuses, asking themselves:

- Will I be comfortable here?
- Will my gifts be valued here?
- Will I grow here—in my faith, my character, my potential?

We want to tell them—and show them!—that at MLC the answer to these questions is yes.

Why this emphasis on recruitment? Many of you know the reason firsthand. Your school or congregation is struggling to fill a vacancy right now. Teachers, pastors, and staff ministers are in short supply. After Call Days at MLC and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, about 140 classrooms and 100 pulpits remain unfilled.

And the situation will not soon ease. WELS schools are growing, and each additional classroom needs a teacher. A synod initiative visualizes 100 new missions in the next 10 years, and each new pulpit needs a pastor.

Clearly, our synod needs more people to study for gospel ministry. Clearly, MLC needs to offer an excellent college experience at an affordable price.

Under God's blessing, this casebook lays out a plan that could enable this to happen. We are pursuing excellence under the cross. It's a task with eternal importance. We thank God for your partnership with us.

In Him,

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

Rich Gurgel  
MLC President



*Pursuing Excellence*  

---

UNDER THE CROSS





*Pursuing Excellence*

UNDER THE CROSS

**As family in Christ, MLC pursues excellence under the cross in preparing called workers for our synod and its mission fields around the world.**

## FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

### God loves us.

We pursue excellence under CHRIST's cross as God's fully loved children who know our heavenly Father is already perfectly pleased with us in Christ.

### God gifts us.

We pursue EXCELLENCE under the cross by giving God the best his grace inspires in us with the unique talents he's given each of us.

### God emboldens us.

We pursue excellence under OUR OWN cross as we die to mediocrity and apathy and rise in Christ with the courage to take risks for the gospel.

## KEY INITIATIVES



### We embrace our **family's identity.**

We pursue excellence under the cross as we delight without apology in being a confessional Lutheran faith family whose defining mission is to equip and support the current and future generations of faithful pastors, educators, and staff ministers.



### We empower our **family's formation.**

We pursue excellence under the cross as we encourage spiritual and intellectual growth for our entire family; support the physical and emotional health of each family member; and engage gracefully in difficult conversations to move our mission forward.



### We expand our **family's reach.**

We pursue excellence under the cross as we strive to reflect the "every nation, tribe, people, and language" reality of God's people (Re 7:9) by working to become a more welcoming home for students of all ages and backgrounds who have gifts for ministry.



### We endow our **family's home.**

We pursue excellence under the cross as we make MLC significantly more affordable without sacrificing an excellent college experience on a beautiful and well-equipped campus.





# Endow the Family's Home *by*

We're so grateful our students are dedicating their lives to gospel ministry! They're working hard in all their courses—from Christian Doctrine to Teaching Reading to Greek and Hebrew. They're also working hard to make tuition payments—through jobs on campus and in town, doing everything from office work to milking cows! We're proud of them for being so diligent, but we're concerned as well. We want our students to be excited about their vocation, not worried about their cash flow. We don't want money nightmares to haunt their ministry dreams.

**By June 2027, with God's help,  
we will work with families to meet these goals:**

## **FIRST-YEARS: NO LOANS!**

Our goal, in partnering with students and families, is that no MLC student will need to take out loans their first year of college.

**Why is this important?** We want high school students who are unsure about their future to give MLC a chance. After a semester or two here, ministry preparation often captures their hearts, and they stay, graduate, and serve the church. For many years, when MLC was a more affordable option, that is precisely what happened. But now, our financial aid packages struggle to compete with those of other colleges. Too often, students who are on the fence make their college decision based on dollars and cents rather than ministry inclinations, and they enroll elsewhere.

## **GRADUATING SENIORS: LOW LOANS!**

Our goal is that MLC seniors will graduate with an average debt that is no more than 50% of the base starting salary of a called worker. For example: The base starting salary for WELS teachers in 2021-22 is \$30,600. If we were to meet our goal, the average debt for 2022 grads would be no more than \$15,300. That figure right now is \$18,896.

**Why is this important?** As our graduates enter their ministries, we want them to concentrate on the joys of gospel ministry—preaching, teaching, and serving in their new congregations and schools—without being overwhelmed by financial worries.

From the Class of 2022:  
Lynnea Starzl was assigned to  
St. Lucas in Kewaskum, Wisconsin.  
Her fiancé, Jacob Zabell, will be  
attending Wisconsin Lutheran  
Seminary in the fall.  
Morgan Gosch (*right*) was  
assigned to California LHS.



Would you like to help us boost our financial aid?  
Simply go to [mlc-wels.edu/donate](https://mlc-wels.edu/donate) and direct  
your gift to any of the options on that page.

Or text AID to 507.233.4344.



# Boosting Financial Aid



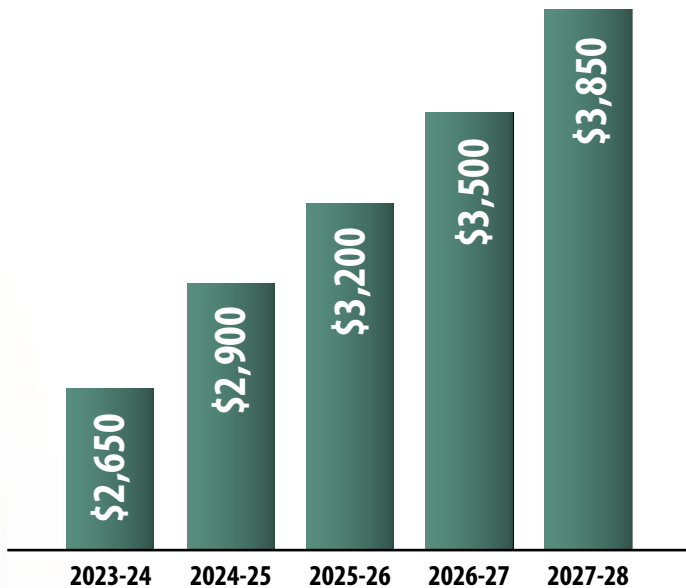
## Maggie Gabb

receives a Congregational Partner Grant from her congregation, St. Paul's in Beverly Hills, Florida. She says: "Not only is it encouraging because I don't have to work as much . . . it's also really encouraging to see how many people support me back home, 1,500 miles away."

## How will we accomplish these goals? With a **10% Boost**

### BOOST CPGP BY 10% ANNUALLY

Through the Congregational Partner Grant Program, students have received up to \$2,000 every year: \$1,000 from their congregation and a \$1,000 match from MLC. In 2022-23, we increased the annual maximum to \$2,400—\$1,200 from the congregation and a \$1,200 MLC match. A 10% increase every year would really make a difference for our students.



### BOOST FINANCIAL AID BY 10% ANNUALLY

We award scholarships and grants based on merit (factors like GPA, class ranking, and leadership abilities) and on financial need (as determined by the FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid). A 10% increase every year in this aid would decrease the financial burden on students and families.

**Why is this important?** A college education at MLC should not cost more than similar schools students may be considering, such as Bethany Lutheran College, Wisconsin Lutheran College, or Concordia University Wisconsin. And because our students are training to be pastors, teachers, and staff ministers—not healthcare professionals, engineers, or lawyers—it may take them many years to pay off a substantial college debt.

### BOOST FINANCIAL WELLNESS

We want to extend our financial wellness training to high school and middle school students and their parents. We've found great success in teaching MLC students about budgeting, responsible uses of credit, emergency funds, and more. If we could begin that training earlier, then when those preteens and teens reach college age, they and their families will already have a head start financially.





# Endow the Family's Home *by*

We're seeking more Legacy

When you  
establish a Legacy  
Scholarship,  
you can . . .

- Honor a loved one by naming the scholarship after them
- Support a specific area of ministry training that's important to you
- Specify whether the scholarship supports students based on their merit or their need
- Know that you are making a significant difference in students' lives
- Receive a personal thank-you letter from a scholarship recipient
- Receive special tax benefits
- Leave a lasting legacy at MLC
- Glorify the Lord of the Church!

## KOINONIA FUND



This scholarship fund was established in 2015 by Dale and Marsha Krause, members at Emanuel Lutheran Church in New London, Wisconsin. *Koinonia* is a Greek word meaning fellowship or communion with God and with fellow Christians.

Dale (1947-2021) was a US Air Force veteran who served in Turkey. Following military service, he worked 40 years in finance at Bemis Company in Neenah, Wisconsin. Marsha (b. 1948) worked at Aid Association for Lutherans (now Thrivent) and as a paraprofessional in the Shiocton public school system. Both volunteered generously at Emanuel over the years, Marsha as a teacher aide and as treasurer of the Ladies' Evening Circle, and Dale as congregation president and a member of several boards and committees. Both served on the congregation's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. In addition, Dale served as a committee member and volunteer at Fox Valley LHS, as a delegate to WELS district and synod conventions, and as a member of MLC's Governing Board.

The couple has two sons, Shane and Brett. "Both of our sons decided to enter the pastoral ministry, for which we are grateful," Dale said. "We are also grateful for the material blessings God has poured out on us. We decided the best way to share those resources is to help future pastors in the preseminary program at Martin Luther College." *Income from this fund is distributed in grants of \$500 to preseminary students who are completing their final year of study. One such recipient is Alex Dimke. Like all our scholarship recipients, he wrote a note of thanks:*

***Dear Mrs. Krause, I want to sincerely thank you*** for your kindness and generosity. . . . I have been richly blessed to study at MLC for four years in the classroom and one year of field experience in the country of Peru. . . . I am married to Noelle Boucher of Denver, Colorado, who is currently a teacher in North Mankato, Minnesota, at Jesus Loves Me Learning Center. Your support affects us both as she continues in her ministry and aids in providing for our family as I continue my studies. . . . When I began MLC as a freshman, I was uniquely prepared to participate in the field experience program of teaching English as a second language in Lima, Peru. My heart has been yearning ever since for the foreign mission field, and I hope to serve in that capacity one day. . . . ***My whole college career has been made possible by donors like yourselves.*** God be with you.

Alex Dimke MLC '22





# Establishing More Scholarships

Scholarships—like the ones we feature here.

## GREFE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Ethan and Rebekah Grefe have a daughter and two sons, one of which has a developmental disability. “We are grateful to God for his gift of a son with a developmental disability,” they said. “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.” *Grege Family Scholarship recipients are juniors and seniors with a special education major who demonstrate financial need.*



## JAMES K. HUHN MEMORIAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP



Jim Huhn (1940-2018) found his calling as a high school science teacher. A devout Christian, he found evidence of God’s presence in science, and he let his studies of the wonders of Creation lead him closer to God. He taught at Watertown High School in Wisconsin for 36 years before retiring as their physics teacher and science department chair. “Over his decades of service, James inspired countless students,” said his wife, Karen; daughter, Rebecca (Cox); and sons, Steve and Todd. “We decided to establish this scholarship so he could continue to inspire others.” *James K. Huhn Memorial Science Scholarship recipients are students majoring in secondary science education who demonstrate scholastic merit.*

**You choose the size and scope of your scholarship.**

**FOR EXAMPLE . . .**

An annual gift of **\$1,000** could be awarded as one or two smaller scholarships per year.

An annual gift of **\$10,000** could be awarded as several scholarships every year.

An endowed scholarship of **\$25,000** would allow us to award 4% annually in scholarships.

**We’ll help you set it up.**

**Mark Maurice**  
VP for Mission Advancement  
mauricme@mlc-wels.edu  
507.354.8221 x386

**Beth Scharf**  
Resource Development Counselor  
scharfbm@mlc-wels.edu  
507.354.8221 x241

**WELS**  
Ministry of Christian Giving | 414.256.3209





# Endow the Family's Home *with*

**THANK YOU!** Before we look to future campus improvements,  
for the most recent campus updates.



## BETTY KOHN FIELDHOUSE

Turf—36,000 square feet of it. Made possible by many initial gifts and the transformational gift of Robert and Betty Kohn, our new fieldhouse features batting cages, golf simulators, track & field equipment, and more. Our athletic teams, PE classes, intramurals, and other student groups love it already.



Please join us for the **DEDICATION**  
on October 8 at 9:15 AM.



## CENTENNIAL HALL AC

It's not new, but it's cool. A generous donor funded air conditioning for this residence hall that's been anchoring the north corner of campus since 1950.



## CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER

You belong here! This is a place for our students to learn about people whose cultures are different from theirs. A place where everyone on campus can remember they belong.





# Campus Enhancements

we have to thank our Lord—and you—  
Take a look!



## PATIO COURTYARDS

Two new patios. This one between Concord and Augustana Halls, and another outside the library, allow students to build relationships around the firepit or finish up a group project in the sunshine.



## WELCOME CENTER

Newly Knighted. This photo board—filled with the names and faces of the 2022-23 first-year class—marks one entrance of our spacious Welcome Center, where the Admissions and Financial Aid staff are ready to assist prospective students.



## JESUS, FISHER OF MEN

Caught! A visual reminder of the God whose love captured us and the reason we exist: to share that love with others. Funded by the MLC Alumni Association.



## NEW TENNIS COURTS

Putting a whole new angle on “love” and “serve.” We’ve moved our courts to the MLC Athletic Complex near the fieldhouse.





# Endow the Family's Home *with*

Our campus tells a story. Every brick and tree and sidewalk reflects who we are and what we value. We want our campus to honor the God of glory and reflect the integrity of our mission. To students specifically, we want our campus to say, "Here, we value every gift God has given you—all of which can be tuned to ministry. Here is a place for you to grow." Please take a look at our Master Site Plan and visualize the future with us.



## **A** "LUTHER HEIGHTS" RESIDENCE HALL



You may recall that our newest residence hall was built more than 50 years ago. Students notice. We find it hard to compete with other colleges that have newer facilities with many appealing amenities. That's why this residence hall is essential. **Visualize** it overlooking our main entrance on Summit Avenue. Visualize four-student two-bedroom suites, each with a shared bathroom and shower. Visualize students collaborating on projects and papers in the glass-encased Skyline Studies on each corner. . . . The gifts you graciously gave through *Equipping Christian Witnesses* have moved this project closer to reality, and we're excited to take it to the finish line.

## MUSIC FACILITIES

Of the 135 graduates in 2022, 128 sang in a choir, played in the Wind Symphony, and/or took music lessons at least one semester. That's 95 percent. They may also have performed in the musical, pit orchestra, handbell choir, or worship ensemble. Because worship and music are such important aspects of ministry, we want to respect and support our students' musical gifts. We already have a wonderful music faculty. We need wonderful music facilities.

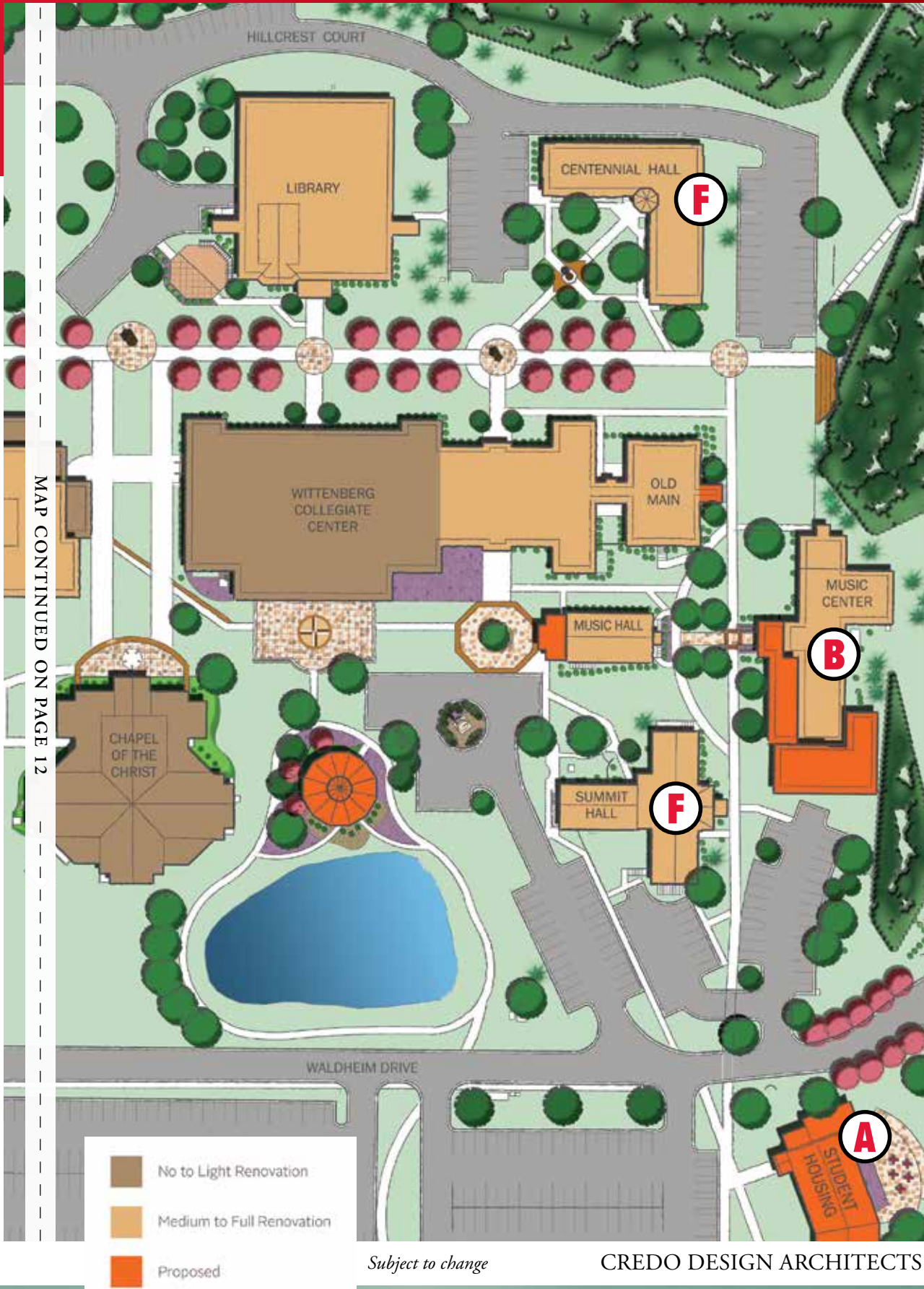
## **B** MUSIC CENTER

**Visualize** a renovated and expanded Music Center with acoustically appropriate rehearsal space for an 80-member Wind Symphony and a 60-member choir. Instrument and music storage areas. A soundproof rehearsal room for the worship ensembles. New classrooms for Teaching Music and Music Technology. Additional practice rooms. Restrooms and lobby space. Visualize the exterior of the Music Center updated with brick to align it with the architectural aesthetic of the rest of campus.





# Campus Expansions

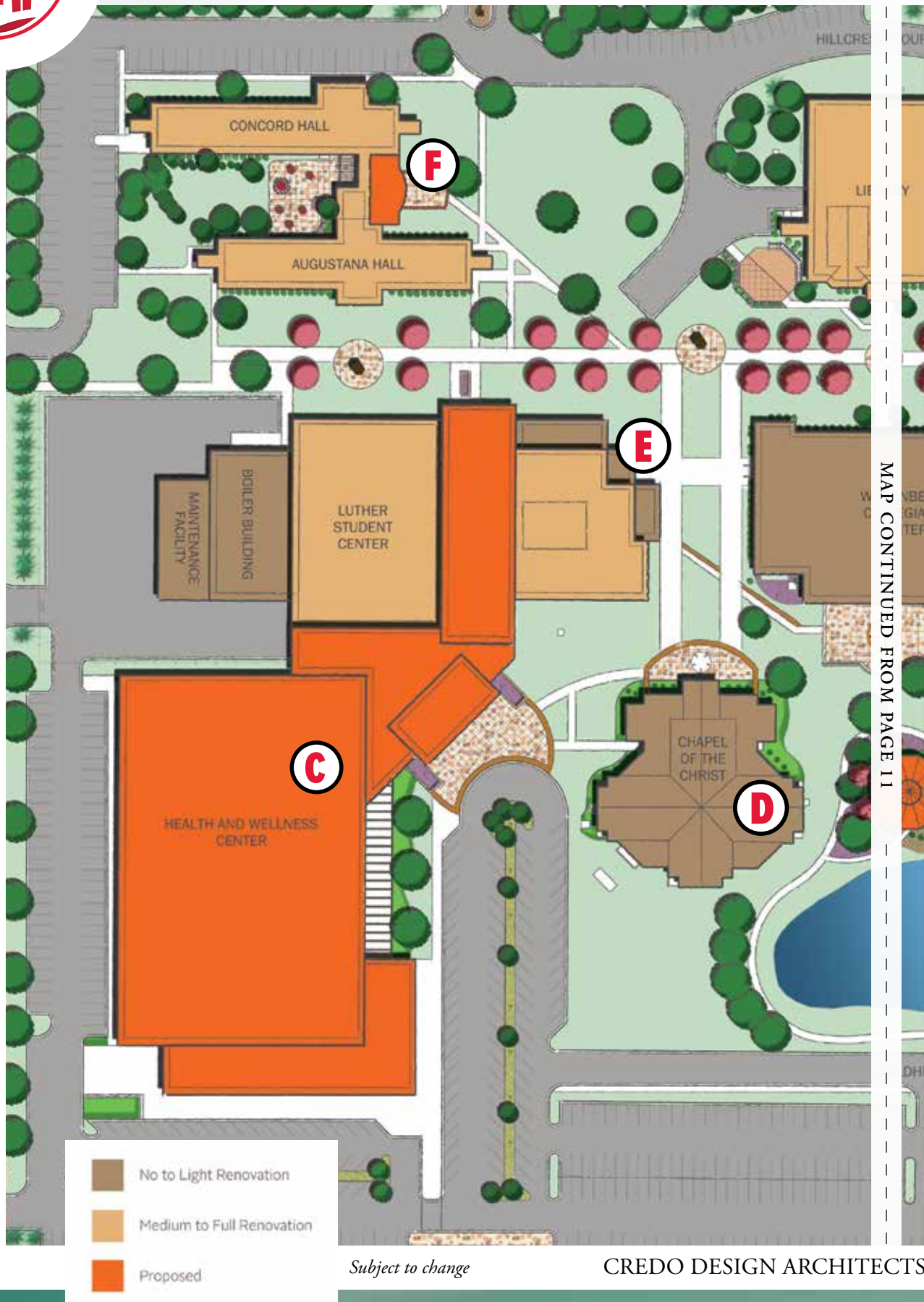


Subject to change

CREDO DESIGN ARCHITECTS



# Endow the Family's Home *with*



Subject to change

CREDO DESIGN ARCHITECTS



# Campus Expansions



## **C** HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

**Visualize** a center that could impact every student every day—through intercollegiate competition, intramurals, PE courses, fitness, and recreation. Visualize dozens of students playing intramural basketball on four courts—well before 11 pm, which is game time on many a night now. Visualize runners on the track surrounding the courts and walkers getting in their steps on the mezzanine above. Visualize training rooms, weight rooms, and classrooms for PE, Teaching PE, and Coaching—all conveniently adjacent to gym space. Visualize teams practicing on campus instead of renting space at other facilities. Visualize the addition of JV teams to our programs—allowing more students to develop their gifts for future use in ministry.

## UPGRADED ATHLETIC FIELDS

**Visualize** turf athletic competition fields. We are the only college in our conference that still plays on grass, which means our baseball and softball fields are often unplayable in spring. Visualize upgraded seating at the football bowl to accommodate spectators of all ages. *(Not pictured on site plan.)*

## **D** CHAPEL LOWER LEVEL

**Visualize** acoustically designed spaces for both a 100-voice choir and our handbell choir. Recording technology. Storage space for band and choir risers, stands, chairs, and 450 choir robes—with air quality management. We're happy to announce that detailed planning for this work has begun.

## **E** SOCIAL SPACES

Our small student union is currently more of a hallway than a hangout. **Visualize** more “third spaces”—such as this enhanced solarium with a separate entrance—where students are meeting to relax for an hour—talking, laughing, encouraging each other on the journey.

## **F** OTHER RESIDENCE HALL UPGRADES

Our buildings are not timeless, even if the Word spoken within them is. Thousands of men and women have used our residence halls well—and the wear and tear shows. We are not attempting to offer luxury apartments. We simply want to offer what students would consider normal college facilities. **Visualize** tired restrooms receiving facelifts, gathering spaces renovated for student comfort, and dorm rooms furnished with new desks, beds, and window coverings.

## IT'S A BALANCE

“Wow! I didn’t know this campus was so beautiful!” We’re delighted when we hear this from visitors, parents, and especially new students. We want our campus to be attractive—a place where students are happy to spend four important years of their lives.

We also know we must walk a fine line between keeping MLC *attractive* and keeping MLC *affordable*.

That’s why we put a lot of time, thought, and prayer into each improvement we make.

As we reevaluate our campus master plan, we’ve been gathering input from Credo, a higher education consulting firm, as well as faculty, staff, students, parents, and synod leaders.

We want to be wise stewards of the financial resources God gives us—and take excellent care of the students he leads to our campus as well.



# Extend the Family's Reach *with*

## An Alternate Path to the Teaching Ministry

We cannot overestimate the blessings of the four years our traditional students spend together on campus—in chapel and classroom, on field, court, riser, and stage. Some people who want to become teachers, however, cannot pursue the traditional four-year on-campus experience. That's where Competency-Based Education comes in. CBE is an online option that awards degrees based on competence rather than credit-hours. It recognizes adults' life experience and job-embedded skills, and allows them to earn their college degrees while staying in their own communities. CBE works especially well for non-traditional ministry candidates, including second-career individuals and unique urban people groups. These adults are highly motivated, and they already demonstrate gifts for ministry. But they cannot uproot their families, quit their jobs—some of which are at WELS schools!—and come to the MLC campus.

*These potential teachers cannot come to MLC,  
but MLC can come to them. Dreams can be  
fulfilled . . . and classrooms can be filled . . . through  
Competency-Based Education.*

**Why is this important?** Because WELS classrooms need more teachers. God has blessed our Lutheran schools, especially our urban schools, with incredible growth. But Martin Luther College's traditional program simply cannot supply all the teachers our schools need. Our enrollment is not large enough.



Urban schools like St. Marcus Lutheran in Milwaukee need more WELS teachers.

## SUPPLY & DEMAND

### The Numbers Are In!

#### DEMAND

We need WELS teachers in our schools

**50** Teacher vacancies (2020)

**90** Teacher vacancies (2021)

**140** Teacher vacancies (2022)

#### SUPPLY

We have potential teacher candidates for the CBE program (2019 survey results)

**600** Second-career candidates

**33** Urban minority candidates



# Competency-Based Education



Middle school students at St. Croix Lutheran Academy-St. Paul

## Church Leaders Are Asking for CBE

“There is no more critical need in urban gospel ministry than raising up qualified Christian teachers from among the people of color connected with our schools. **The development of an online competency-based degree program by our WELS College of Ministry is truly a godsend.**”

**Rev. Daniel Leyrer**

Pastor, St. Marcus Lutheran Church & School  
Milwaukee

First Vice President, Southeastern Wisconsin District

“Divine Savior Ministries has four academies and a special needs school. We have been blessed with tremendous growth, which means we need more teachers. All our campuses have called positions that have not been filled. This is a real concern. **We are excited that MLC is pursuing a competency-based education program** for qualified candidates who are already serving in our schools.”

**Timothy Biesterfeld**

Head of Schools, Divine Savior Academy  
Miami & Delray Beach, Florida  
Austin & Houston, Texas

“I hear from people every week who want to become WELS teachers, who are willing to do the coursework to get their bachelor’s degrees and their ministry certification. But they cannot quit their jobs and uproot their families to come to New Ulm. In some cases, they are already working in a WELS school, as a teacher’s aide, for instance. CBE would allow them to keep working while they get their degree.”

**Dr. John Meyer, MLC Director of Graduate Studies & Continuing Education**

### Meet a possible CBE candidate:

“I serve as an academic support teacher at Divine Savior Academy. Having established a life in Miami for the last 15 years, my family and I are 100% invested in our work, school, and church, making it impossible for us to relocate to New Ulm to pursue ministerial education. At this point in my life, an online program to earn a bachelor’s degree in education would be a tremendous blessing to me and my role at DSA.”



**Jessica Spiegelberg,**  
Academic  
Support  
Teacher,  
Divine Savior  
Academy

# How can you help?

Pursuing Excellence Under the Cross is more than a campaign. It's our long-range strategic plan for preparing the next generation of called workers for *your* congregation through *your* WELS College of Ministry. *You* can be a catalyst to help realize a generational vision for our future called workers.

**PRAY** for God's continued grace to increase the number of future teachers, pastors, and staff ministers.

**SPREAD THE ENCOURAGING WORD** about your WELS College of Ministry by scheduling an MLC Sunday at your congregation and by encouraging any women and men you know who have gifts for ministry.

## FINANCIALLY SUPPORT STUDENTS

**Financial Aid:** Give a gift in any amount to help us make the 10% boost!

**Scholarships:** Establish a named scholarship to assist students based on merit or need. (*Mark or Beth will help you set it up. See their contact info on page 17.*)

- \$1,000 minimum: Annual named scholarship fund to support at least one student each year. This scholarship needs to be renewed annually.
- \$25,000 minimum: Endowed scholarship to support at least one student per year for many years.

**Campus Facilities:** Gifts will be directed to campus enhancement priorities.

- \$5,800: Refurbish one room in a residence hall.
- \$30,000: Renovate small gathering spaces in Augustana Hall.
- \$62,000: Renovate a large gathering space and small gym in Centennial Hall.
- \$\$\$ We are seeking special gifts for the new Luther Heights residence hall. Please contact us for more information!

### Competency-Based Education:

- \$50,000: Design of academic courses
- \$25,000: Technology support



*Pursuing Excellence*

UNDER THE CROSS

## A SPECIAL WAY TO SUPPORT MLC

### Be an MLC Sustainer by setting up a recurring gift

We deeply appreciate each recurring gift to the MLC Fund, which supports students every day. It's easy for you too!

- **It's automatic.** Set it up and relax, knowing you're supporting MLC in an ongoing way.
- **It's easy to set up.** Choose an amount as low as \$5 a month!
- **It's easy to adjust.** Family situations can change. If you ever want to adjust the amount of your monthly gift—or cancel it entirely—you can, no questions asked.

Text **FUND** to **507.223.4344**  
Go to **mlc-wels.edu/mlc fund**

PURSuing EXCELLENCE UNDER THE CROSS

## FOUR WAYS TO GIVE:

Text GIVE to  
**507.223.4344**

Go to  
**mlc-wels.edu/donate**

Call  
**507.354.8221 x295**

Send your check with the coupon below to  
**MLC, 1995 Luther Ct, New Ulm MN 56073**

I'd like to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ for ☐ Financial Aid ☐ Facilities ☐ Competency-Based Education ☐ MLC Fund

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

SMLC2022.PEC



# MLC AND WLS GRADUATES

## *Assigned to Your District*

### ARIZONA-CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

**Ethan Aguilar** (Wildomar CA) to **Carlsbad CA-Carlsbad CA**: gr 5-7, Principal Training Program

**Katelyn Aswege** (Milwaukee) to **Carlsbad CA-Carlsbad CA**: K

**Barton Cox** (Oconomowoc WI) to **Calvary LC-Canyon Country CA** (mission restart): pastor

**Morgan Gosch** (Sioux Falls SD) to **California LHS**: Spanish (one-year assignment)

**Allison Grunke** (Fairfax MN) to **Mt. Calvary LS-Redding CA**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

**Christina Kapellusch** (Phoenix) to **Redeemer LS-Tucson AZ**: gr 3-4 (one-year assignment)

**Claudia Meyer** (Greeley CO) to **East Fork LS-Whiteriver AZ**: gr 6-7, coaching (one-year assignment)

**Anthony Pflughoeft** (Germantown WI) to **Christ the Vine LC-Temecula CA**: pastor

**Michael Radue** (Waukesha WI) to **Cross of Glory LS-Peoria AZ**: gr 5-6, athletic director

**Madison Rich** (Lansing MI) to **Shepherd of the Hills LPS-Las Vegas**: ECE (one-year assignment)

**Benjamin Riegsecker** (Lincoln NE) to **California LHS**: dorm supervisor, math, coaching (one-year assignment)

**Tony Sahatjian** (Thousand Oaks CA) to **East Fork LS-Whiteriver AZ**: gr 8, athletic director, coaching (one-year assignment)

**Samantha Schoch** (Vanderbilt MI) to **California LHS**: dorm supervisor, instructor (reassigned for second year)

**Eric Zabell** (Green Bay WI) to **St. Peter LC-Clovis CA**: pastor

### DAKOTA-MONTANA DISTRICT

**Stephen Biebert** (Neillsville WI) to **Trinity LS-Aberdeen SD**: gr 4-5, athletics

**Mollie Hinz** (Steger IL) to **Trinity LS-Aberdeen SD**: gr 2-3

**Maria Hoffman** (Florence SD) to **Great Plains LHS**: dorm supervisor, math, geometry (one-year assignment)

**Anne Manske** (Appleton WI) to **Zion LPS-Mobridge SD**: ECE

**Joel Prange** (Burlington WI) to **Grace LC-Dickinson ND** (new mission start): pastor

**Daniel Sprain** (Surprise AZ) to **Shepherd of the Valley LC-West Fargo ND**: pastor

**Michael Starr** (Bay City MI) to **Great Plains LHS**: dorm supervisor, geography, religion (reassigned for second year)

### MICHIGAN DISTRICT

**Benjamin Balge** (Milwaukee) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (reassigned for one year)

**Carl Boeder** (New Ulm MN) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: music

**Brett Burger** (Lake Mills WI) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (one-year assignment)

**Megan Buth** (Newnan GA) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (one-year assignment)

**Laurel (Hirschmann) Dose** (New Ulm MN) to **St. Paul LS-Columbus OH**: K-8 departmentalized (one-year assignment)

**Jonathan Fleischmann** (Kaukauna WI) to **Hope LC-Indian River MI / Our Savior LC-Gaylord MI**: pastor

**Aiden Holien** (Watertown SD) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (one-year assignment)

**Jacob Mathena** (Covington GA) to **Michigan LHS**: dorm supervisor, social studies, English (reassigned for second year)

**Madelyn Neyhart** (Reedsburg WI) to **Beautiful Savior LS-Grove City OH**: K

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

**Kara Peter** (Portage MI) to **St. Paul LS-South Haven MI**: gr 5-8 (one-year assignment)

**Kayla Scharp** (Mayville MI) to **Cross of Glory LS-Washington MI**: gr 1-3

**Matthew Scharp** (Menomonee Falls WI) to **Cross of Glory LS-Washington MI**: gr 4-8, Principal Training Program

**Rebecca Schilling** (Holmen WI) to **St. Paul LS-Columbus OH**: gr 3-4 (one-year assignment)

**Matthew Swanson** (Rochester MN) to **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**: tutor (reassigned for one year)

### MINNESOTA DISTRICT

**Molly Berg** (Appleton WI) to **Holy Trinity LS-New Hope MN**: ECE

**Lydia Bitter** (Bemidji MN) to **St. John LS-Red Wing MN**: gr 7-8 (reassigned for second year)

**Rebecca Boehlke** (St. Paul) to **Crown of Life LS-West St. Paul MN**: gr 5

**Jakob Casper** (Jackson WI) to **Minnesota Valley LHS**: history, coaching (one-year assignment)

**Brittany Denn** (New Ulm MN) to **St. John LS-Redwood Falls MN**: gr 1

**Halie Flores** (San Diego) to **Martin Luther College**: admissions counselor (one-year assignment)

**Joshua Higgins** (Watertown WI) to **Trinity LS-Belle Plaine MN**: gr 7-8

**Mya Kessler-Peshon** (Lewiston MN) to **Martin Luther College Early Childhood Learning Center**: ECE (one-year assignment)

**Sarah Kjenstad** (Aberdeen SD) to **Bloomington LS-Bloomington MN**: K

**Camella Kohl** (Antioch IL) to **Cross of Christ LS-Coon Rapids MN**: K

**Jamee Kroll** (Beaver Dam WI) to **St. Croix LA**: dorm supervisor, band (assignment made permanent)

**Samuel Lor** (Kansas City KS) to **St. John LC / True North Campus Ministry-Minneapolis**: pastor

**Ryan Maertz** (Watertown SD) to **St. Croix LA**: science, coaching

**William Rauh** (Arlington MN) to **West LHS**: English, coaching

**Nathaniel Savage** (Phoenix) to **Martin Luther College**: tutor (one-year assignment)

**Jacob Schlomer** (Rome WI) to **St. Paul LC-St. James MN**: pastor

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

**Christian Stoeberl** (Franklin WI) to **Salem LS-Loretto MN**: gr 7-8

**Maria Werre** (Sun Prairie WI) to **St. Peter LS-St. Peter MN**: gr 1-2, organ, piano (one-year assignment)

# MLC AND WLS GRADUATES

## NEBRASKA DISTRICT

**Lauren (Stuebs) Fury** (Stoddard WI) to **Lord of Life LS-Thornton CO**: gr 1-2 (one-year assignment)

**Justus Kupsky** (Manitowoc WI) to **Zion LS-Valentine NE**: gr 4-8

**Livia Lickteig** (Mequon WI) to **Shepherd of the Valley LS-Westminster CO**: ECE (one-year assignment)

**Caleb Paul** (Bennett CO) to **Nebraska LHS**: dorm supervisor, Spanish (reassigned for second year)

**Samantha Paul** (New Hope MN) to **Shepherd of the Valley LS-Westminster CO**: gr 5-8 (one-year assignment)

**Rylee Quandt** (New Ulm MN) to **Our Precious Lambs PS-Omaha**: ECE director apprentice (reassigned for second year)

**Justin Wilkens** (Haymarket VA) to **Grace LC-Seward NE / Bethel LC-York NE**: pastor

## NORTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

**Alex Lindemann** (Lewiston MN) to **North Atlantic District**: graduate associate to district president

**Jacob Price** (Weston WI) to **Grace CA-Falls Church VA**: gr 7-8, Principal Training Program

**Cassie Rawlings** (Nenah WI) to **Grace Lutheran Child Care-Charlotte NC**: ECE (one-year assignment)

**Nathan Wong** (New Ulm MN) to **Shepherd of the Bay LC-Lusby MD**: pastor

## NORTHERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

**Kelsey Birschbach** (DeForest WI) to **Zion LS-Rhineland WI**: K3-K4, after-school care (one-year assignment)

**Jamie (Stibb) Bruckschen** (Beaver Dam WI) to **Zion LS-Egg Harbor WI**: gr 5-8 (one-year assignment)

**Stanley Draper** (Sleepy Eye MN) to **Trinity LC-Kaukauna WI**: pastor

**Joseph Grambsch** (Columbus WI) to **St. Peter LS-Sturgeon Bay WI**: gr 7-8, Principal Training Program

**Elizabeth Kluball** (West Bend WI) to **St. Mark LS-Green Bay WI**: gr K-8 special education

**Chloe Kollmann** (Ortonville MI) to **Peace LS-Green Lake WI**: ECE director (assignment made permanent)

**Joshuah Kren** (Waukesha WI) to **Fox Valley LHS**: life science, coaching (one-year assignment)

**Katie Lindemann** (Valders WI) to **Bethany LS-Manitowoc WI**: gr 4

**Nathanael Plocher** (Pardeeville WI) to **Zion LC-Rhineland WI**: associate pastor

**Elizabeth Schoeneck** (Jackson WI) to **Bethlehem LS-Hortonville WI**: gr 1-2

**Morgan Spoehr** (New London WI) to **St. Peter LS-Weyauwega WI**: gr 3-4, athletic director

**Elena Thoma** (Sturgeon Bay WI) to **Christ LS-Eagle River WI**: gr 2-4

**David Ticks** (Kimberly WI) to **Friedens LC-Bonduel WI**: pastor

**Donovan Waeger** (Tomah WI) to **St. Peter LS-Weyauwega WI**: gr 5-6, technology director

**Thomas Welch** (Appleton WI) to **Peace LC / Michigan Technological University-Houghton MI**: pastor

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

**Emma Dorn** (Crete IL) to **Immanuel LS-Salem OR**: gr 2-3

**Jacob Heyn** (Crete IL) to **King of Kings LC-Wasilla AK**: pastor

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

**Chantel Kolander** (St. Charles MI) to **Faith LS-Tacoma WA**: gr 5-6, coaching, athletic director

**Evan Kolander** (Menomonee Falls WI) to **Evergreen LHS**: social studies, coaching

**Nathan Spaude** (Alger MI) to **Holy Trinity LS-Des Moines WA**: gr 5, coaching

**Melissa (Cox) Waterstradt** (Oconomowoc WI) to **Christ the King LS-Bremerton WA**: gr 5-6 (one-year assignment)

## SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

**Elizabeth Bartz** (Eau Claire MI) to **Crown of Life CA-Fort Myers FL**: gr 2-3

**Simeon Crass** (Rock Island IL) to **Peace LC-Aiken SC**: pastor

**Matthew Fisher** (Madison WI) to **Christ the King School-Palm Coast FL**: gr 6

**Juliana Joya** (Los Angeles) to **Christ Our Savior Academy-Columbia TN**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

**Samantha Kiecker** (Phoenix) to **Christ the King School-Palm Coast FL**: gr 2

**Dayne Kopfer** (Columbus WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Delray Beach FL**: gr 4

**Hannah Oelhafen** (Waukesha WI) to **The Divine Savior School-Doral FL**: gr 3-5 special education

**Sarah Quinn** (Wisconsin Dells WI) to **King of Kings LS-Maitland FL**: K

**Morgan (Steffke) Schmidt** (Green Bay WI) to **Abiding Peace Academy-Simpsonville SC**: gr 2-3 (one-year assignment)

**Kaylie Solomon** (Troy MI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Delray Beach FL**: ECE

## SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

**Clayton Hirsch** (Jefferson WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Sienna TX**: gr 9 social studies (one-year assignment)

**Kaelyn Holdcroft** (Greenville WI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Santa Rita Ranch TX**: gr 5

**Joseph Kasper** (Brown Deer WI) to **Shepherd of the Plains-Lubbock TX**: pastor

**Rebekah Koestler** (Racine WI) to **Holy Word CA-Austin TX**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

**Mary Story** (Bay City MI) to **Divine Savior Academy-Sienna TX**: gr 2

## SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

**Heaven Bausley** (Milwaukee) to **Christ / St. Peter LS-Milwaukee**: gr 2 (one-year assignment)

**Aimee (Olsen) Behm** (Louis Corners WI) to **Morning Star LS-Jackson WI**: Learning Center (one-year assignment)

**Sofia (Spiegelberg) Bitter** (Gros Islet, Saint Lucia) to **Wisconsin LHS**: dorm supervisor, science (one-year assignment)

**Zachary Bork** (San Jose) to **Salem LS-Milwaukee**: gr 8, social studies (assignment made permanent)

**Madison Boulden** (West Bend WI) to **Good Shepherd LS-West Bend WI**: gr 6, dep't music & language arts (one-year assignment)

**Joshua Busch** (Rapid City SD) to **Gloria to God LC-Tinley Park IL / Our Redeemer LC-Grant Park IL**: pastor

**Elliott Butler** (Ixonia WI) to **Risen Savior LS-Milwaukee**: gr 5, Principal Training Program

**Carrington Cunningham** (Milwaukee) to **Kingdom Prep LHS-Wauwatosa WI**: social studies

**Noelle Dimke** (Henderson CO) to **Bethlehem LS-Germantown WI**: gr 1 (one-year assignment)

**Halley Engelbrecht** (Rockland WI) to **Shoreland LHS**: math, science

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



# Assigned to Your District

Winter Fischer (Oconomowoc WI) to **Resurrection LS-Aurora IL**: gr 4-5 (reassigned for second year)

Emily Flatau (Appleton WI) to **Resurrection LS-Aurora IL**: ECE (one-year assignment)

Hannah Foelske (Steger IL) to **Crown of Life LS-Hubertus WI**: gr 5-6 (one-year assignment)

Celia Fulton (Oshkosh WI) to **St. Philip LS-Milwaukee**: gr 3-5, dep't language arts & math (one-year assignment)

Madelynn Fulton (Oshkosh WI) to **St. Marcus LS-Milwaukee**: gr 4

Aidan Gregorius (Watertown WI) to **St. Marcus LS-Milwaukee**: gr 5-6 social studies (one-year assignment)

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

Rachel Jenswold (DeForest WI) to **Salem LS-Milwaukee**: gr 7, gr 6-8 dep't language arts (one-year assignment)

Caleb Klatt (New Hope MN) to **Abiding Peace LC-Elgin IL**: pastor

Samantha Kohls (Waterloo WI) to **Immanuel LS-Waukegan IL**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Joel Krieger (Las Vegas) to **Southeastern Wisconsin District**: graduate associate to district president

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

Luke Meihack (Fond du Lac WI) to **Kettle Moraine LHS**: gr 9-10 PE, coaching

Courtney Mitchell (Berrien Springs MI) to **Peace LS-Hartford WI**: gr 6 (one-year assignment)

Branden Mueller (Howards Grove WI) to **Wisconsin LS-Racine WI**: gr 7, dep't math (one-year assignment)

Nicole Mueller (Two Rivers WI) to **Trinity LS-Caledonia WI**: gr 7, dep't language arts (one-year assignment)

Leah Plocher (Pardeeville WI) to **Peace LS-Hartford WI**: gr 1 (one-year assignment)

Chloe Robbert (Wasilla AK) to **Illinois LHS**: gr 7-9 science, biology

Isabella Robinson (Greendale WI) to **Wisconsin LS-Racine WI**: gr 4

Tyler Roecker (Campbellsport WI) to **Shoreland LHS**: PE, coaching

Mollie Roekle (Greenfield WI) to **Atonement LS-Milwaukee**: K5 (reassigned for second year)

Mercedes Ronholt (York NE) to **Good Shepherd LS-West Allis WI**: gr 1-2 (one-year assignment)

Laura Schrader (Saginaw MI) to **Siloah LS-Milwaukee**: gr 2 (one-year assignment)

Ziwen Shi (Yinchuan, Ningxia, China) to **Illinois LHS**: gr 10-12 chemistry, physics (one-year assignment)

Olivia Snyder (Watertown WI) to **Bethlehem LS-Menomonee Falls WI**: gr 5-8 English (reassigned for second year)

Lynnea Starzl (Yankton SD) to **St. Lucas LS-Kewaskum WI**: gr 4, 6 (one-year assignment)

Alexander Stoeberl (Franklin WI) to **Atonement LS-Milwaukee**: gr 5-8 religion (one-year assignment)

Lailah Thabatah (Lansing MI) to **Garden Homes LS-Milwaukee**: gr 7 (one-year assignment)

Sidney Tomhave (Commerce City CO) to **Garden Homes LS-Milwaukee**: gr 3 (reassigned for second year)

Michaela Zabell (Bangor WI) to **St. John LS-Milwaukee**: gr 4, music (one-year assignment)

## WESTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Rebecca Carpenter (Sturgis MI) to **St. Matthew PS-Marathon WI**: ECE

Emily Dobberstein (Fountain City WI) to **St. John LS-Baraboo WI**: gr 1

Katelyn Edwards (Hanover MN) to **Lakeside LHS**: English

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

Johanna Fischer (Watertown WI) to **St. John LS-Baraboo WI**: 3K-4K (assignment made permanent)

Yaffet Gabayehu (Dallas) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (reassigned for one year)

Joseph Herrewig (Fond du Lac WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Ella Hirsch (Manhattan KS) to **Trinity LS-Marshfield WI**: gr 3-5

Rebecca Johnson (Bear DE) to **Lakeside LHS**: special ed, remedial, math

Rebecca Krug (Green Bay WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (one-year assignment)

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

Marcus Mortensen (Beaver Dam WI) to **Crown of Life CA-Fort Atkinson WI**: dep't upper grade science (one-year assignment)

Ashley Peterson (Sioux Falls SD) to **St. Matthew LC-Ontario WI**: staff minister (one-year assignment)

Sydney Peterson (Sioux Falls SD) to **St. Paul LS-Wonewoc WI**: gr 5-6

Daniel Schmidt (Ixonia WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (reassigned for one year)

Micah Schoeneck (Green Bay WI) to **St. John LC-Sparta WI**: associate pastor

Taylor Schoenherr (Jefferson WI) to **Leap of Faith Early Childhood Center-New Lisbon WI**: ECE director apprentice (one-year assignment)

Luke Schultz (Rhineland WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Ava Steinbrenner (Hartford WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (reassigned for second year)

Levi Stelljes (New Ulm MN) to **Northland LHS**: gr 9-12 math, athletic director, coaching

Orie Thomford (Chesaning MI) to **Our Savior LC-Burlington IA (mission restart)**: pastor

Philip Waldschmidt (Greenfield WI) to **St. Paul LC-Adams / Mauston WI**: associate pastor

Hannah Wendland (Mequon WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (one-year assignment)

Collin Wenzel (Appleton WI) to **Luther Preparatory School**: tutor (one-year assignment)

## ASSIGNED TO WORLD MISSION

Conifer Berg (Appleton WI) to **London**: missionary

## ELECTING INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

David Freund (South Milwaukee WI) to **Ecuador**

Rachel Ihlenfeldt (Greenleaf WI) to **Grenada**

Shawn Marron (New Ulm MN) to **Dominican Republic**

Emily Raymond (Sun Prairie WI) to **Dominican Republic**

NOTE: After Call Days at MLC and WLS, 140 teacher vacancies and 136 pastor vacancies remained unfilled across the synod.

CA - Christian Academy  
ECE - Early Childhood Education  
K - Kindergarten  
LA - Lutheran Academy  
LC - Lutheran Church  
LHS - Lutheran High School  
LPS - Lutheran Preschool  
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](http://mlc-wels.edu/assignments) and [wls.wels.net/about-wels/assignment-list](http://wls.wels.net/about-wels/assignment-list)

# FACULTY & STAFF NOTES 2021-2022

## Retiring in 2021-2022

### **Paul Bases**

Professor of Spanish 1996-2022

### **David Bauer DMLC '74**

Professor of Music 1998-2022

### **Daryl Hanneman DMLC '75**

Professor of Special Ed 2013-2022

### **Linda Henning**

Custodian 2007-2021

### **Cheryl Loomis DMLC '77**

Professor of Early Childhood Ed  
1997-2022

### **Janice Nass MLC '99**

Serials Librarian 1998-2021

### **James Rathje**

Director of Information Technology  
2010-2021

### **Joel Steffl**

Maintenance Technician 1995-2022

### **Steven Thiesfeldt DMLC '74**

Professor of Science 1997-2022  
VP for Administration 2000-2018

### **Michael Thom**

Accountant 2008-2022

### **Kathryn Tohal**

Resource Development Counselor  
2003-2022

## RETIRING IN 2022



### **Professor Paul**

**Bases** served as a professor of Spanish at MLC from 1996 to 2022. Prior to his ministry here, he served as a teacher at Escuela Vieau Public School-Milwaukee (1976-1980),

St. Peter LS-Milwaukee (1980-1987), and Wisconsin LHS (1987-1996).

Mish Aleisa, a former student of Professor Bases and now a Spanish instructor at Arizona Lutheran Academy, deeply appreciated the impact Bases had on his life: "Paul Bases, known by hundreds of past students simply as 'Profe,' has been a powerful influence in our lives. Many of you reading this have experienced Profe bouncing around the classroom with incredible energy and passion, which made his class infectiously enjoyable and unique.

"As much as Paul loved teaching, he loved his students more. Early in his career, he was hired as a long term substitute in Milwaukee. After a few weeks of dealing with classroom issues a student said, 'Why should we bother to be any different? You'll just leave us like the others.' That same day, Paul marched to the principal's office demanding—and obtaining—a full-time contract so that he could provide stability in his students' lives.

"Paul has always been adamant about putting his students first and seeing their potential. These convictions, along with his passion for immersion learning,

pioneered the strong Spanish program at MLC that we have today. In his classroom and beyond, Paul has trained many pastors, teachers, and laypeople to break through language barriers and spread the gospel message to countless more. It is a joy and an honor to have learned from such a great teacher, mentor, and friend."

*Professor Emeritus Bases plans to do a lot of reading in both English and Spanish, spend afternoons at the gym working out, and at some point work with Academia Cristo. His ultimate goal would be to do a triathlon.*

### **His last message for MLC students:**

I want to say how much fun I've had with you in class and on immersion trips. Watching so many of you take positions as high school teachers and Spanish-speaking pastors has been an absolute joy. And the icing on the cake is seeing you heritage speakers embrace who you are. It's truly been an amazing journey, and I thank you all for traveling it with me.



### **Professor David**

**Bauer** DMLC '74 served as a professor of music at MLC from 1998 to 2022. Prior to his ministry here, he served as a teacher at Trinity LS-Hoskins NE (fall 1976 semester),

St. Paul LS-Wonewoc WI (spring 1977 semester), St. Paul LS-Tomah WI



**Orville  
Hando**  
DMLC 1957  
Oshkosh WI



**Luella  
Honeman**  
DMLC 1977  
Sleepy Eye MN



**John  
Ribar**  
NWC 1957  
Plymouth MI



**Jennifer  
Voll**  
DMLC 1972  
Milwaukie OR



(1978-1983), Wisconsin LHS (1983-1993), and St. Paul LS-Saginaw MI (1993-1998).

Dave's colleague, Professor Jon Laabs, is thankful for his ministry: "Dave Bauer's honesty, integrity, consistency, and work ethic as a teacher, colleague, and Christian example have been a wonderful model of faithful servant leadership during his 24 years at Martin Luther College and his more than 40 years in gospel ministry. His contributions during that time were many and varied, including instruction in music technology, music theory, vocal music, fine arts, and applied guitar. His work with the chapel worship ensemble brought variety and edification to the MLC campus worship life and engaged dozens of students to use their God-given talents in glory to God.

"Of his many gifts and talents to be shared, perhaps what Dave gave most freely to his students was his personal time, both in and out of the classroom. He could be found at a piano working with one of his many theory assignments, giving his students thorough and constructive feedback and encouraging them to improve their skills and hone their craft. He could also be found working behind the scenes with the worship ensemble, balancing sound, adjusting equipment, researching new music, creating charts, and even meeting one-on-one to rehearse with many of those students. Dave was always willing to do this work so that the gifts of others could shine!

"For all this and more, we are thankful for Dave's ministry among us and pray that both he and Barb have a

happy and long retirement, filled with continuing blessings from the Lord."

*Professor Emeritus Bauer plans to continue serving with his musical gifts, be a bigger part of the lives of his children and grandchildren, and travel with Barb, whom he calls "my adventuresome spouse."*

#### **His advice for MLC students:**

Draw on God's strength to empower a disciplined faithfulness, every day and in every way, that excellence in preparation for public ministry may be achieved.



**Professor Daryl Hanneman** DMLC '75 served as a professor of special education at MLC from 2013 to 2022. Prior to his ministry here, he served as a teacher and principal at Trinity

LS-Johnson MN (1975-1986) and as a school psychologist at Cedar Rapids Public School-Cedar Rapids IA (1988-2013).

Special Education Professor Kelli Green pays tribute to Daryl's ministry and his friendship: "Professor Daryl Hanneman, a dear friend and beloved colleague, is a man of character, celebration, and a deep calling to the ministry of special education. He met his wife, Shirley, during undergraduate coursework here on campus, and they began ministry together, with Daryl teaching grades 5-8 and Shirley teaching K-4 at Trinity in Johnson, Minnesota.

"Daryl followed an interest in meeting the needs of his struggling students to the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee to gain his School Psychology certification, spending the next 25 years in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as a K-12 school psychologist.

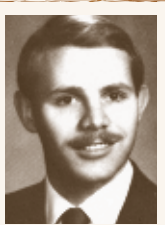
"Daryl accepted the call to serve as professor of special education here at Martin Luther College in 2013 when he joined efforts with Dr. Alan Spurgin to begin the undergraduate special education program in 2014. While here on campus, arriving each day in his MINI Cooper, he has taught psychology and special education courses and been a member of the graduate faculty.

"His students and fellow faculty will remember him most for his ability to find any and every opportunity to celebrate the moments given by God, such as group photos of every special education graduate in his office, yearly Martin Luther birthday class photos with cupcakes and balloons, larger-than-life laughter, and the genuine friendship of a colleague to work beside. Daryl has cared deeply about people and the ministry of special education. For this ministry partner, I am truly grateful. All of MLC thanks you."

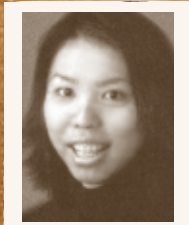
*Professor Emeritus Hanneman and his wife, Shirley, plan to move to a retirement community near Hilton Head, South Carolina, to be near one daughter and three granddaughters.*

#### **His advice for MLC students:**

Remember that God has guided you to MLC, and he has important work for you to do in full-time ministry or another vocation.



**Theodore Bodjanac**  
NWC 1987  
Chicago



**Minori Yamaki**  
MLC 2002  
Okinawa, Japan



**Timothy Babler**  
MLC 2012  
Port Orchard WA



**Janet Witt**  
DMLC 1962  
Brant MI

# FACULTY & STAFF NOTES 2021-2022



**Professor Cheryl Loomis** DMLC '77 served as a professor of early childhood education at MLC from 1997 to 2022. Prior to her ministry here, she served as a teacher at St. John LS-Lewiston MN

(1977-1979), Immanuel LS-Greenville WI (1979-1980), Zion LS-Hartland WI (1984-1993), and St. John LS-Lannon WI (1993-1997).

Cheryl's colleague, Professor Jen Mehlberg, is grateful for her service: "Cheryl Loomis has filled many roles at MLC: professor, early childhood director, student teaching supervisor, mentor, and encourager.

"When she took the call to MLC, there was no early childhood program or early childhood center. Under her guidance and planning—the extent of which was astronomical—the program was created, revamped, and licensed, and the MLC Early Childhood Learning Center was built. It provides a great service to New Ulm families—and to MLC's teachers-in-training.

"Cheryl has taught or supervised every early childhood major MLC has ever had. What a legacy! She's also served the synod at large. She's a regular at teachers' conferences, sharing new research, practices, and the best children's books. She's taught continuing education courses online and in person all around the country (and the world). Her knowledge of early childhood theory and practice is immense.

"When students start having Professor Loomis for class, they get so excited and passionate about the field of early childhood, and that is due to her passion, her excellent teaching methodology, and her fantastic sense of humor. I was blessed to have her as a professor, student teaching supervisor, and (my favorite) a colleague and friend."

*Professor Emeritus Loomis's plans include traveling, spending time with friends and family, working her way through several cookbooks, and enjoying every moment of a Sunday evening!*

## **Her advice for MLC students:**

Recognize that you will experience many peaks and valleys throughout your ministry. Keep these words from Paul as an encouragement: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Colossians 3:23-24)



**Professor Steven Thiesfeldt** DMLC '74 served as a professor of education at MLC from 1997 to 2022 and as vice president for administration from 2000 to 2018. Prior to his ministry

here, he served as a teacher at St. Paul LS-Tomah WI (1974-1977), Salem LS-Stillwater MN (1977-1979), St. Matthew LS-Winona MN (1979-1983), Martin Luther Preparatory School-Prairie

du Chien WI (1983-1995), and Luther Preparatory School (1995-1997).

Professor Emeritus John Schmidt explains that Steve has truly been a blessing to his family, colleagues, and students: "I have had the privilege of serving with Steve at Martin Luther College for 25 years.

"Steve has been an excellent role model for family, colleagues, and students. He often spoke fondly of both his family and students. His gentle manner and measured response to questions have served him well as an educator. As a science teacher, he has remained current in the ever-changing world of science while remaining faithful to the unchanging truths of Scripture. From my office across the hall from his classroom, I often heard lively discussions and saw enthusiastic participation in experiments.

"Steve's organizational and leadership skills were put to good use in his roles as vice president for administration and as president of his congregation.

"When the head baseball coach position went unfilled, he did not hesitate to add that to his already busy schedule. I often saw Steve alone in his classroom long after everyone had left, reviewing videos or setting up the next day's experiments. In spite of his busy schedule, Steve always had time to listen to a colleague or student and share an encouraging word.

*From their home in New Ulm, Professor Emeritus Thiesfeldt and his wife, Jeneane, hope to travel, using the vintage camping trailer he renovated a few years ago and*



**Ronald Klug**  
DMLC 1962  
Milwaukee



**Shanna Padfield**  
MLC 2012  
Shakopee MN



**Robert Rhyne**  
NWC 1977  
Brevard NC



**Mabel Goede**  
DMLC 1952  
Milwaukee



pulling it with a vintage car on which he's working now. Finally, he recalls that his wife bought him a guitar 40 years ago when he was teaching music. When he accepted a call to teach science instead of music, he put it aside. Now he'd finally like to learn to play it.

#### His advice for MLC students:

Make your education more than just a financial investment. Take advantage of every opportunity to use your God-given gifts. Get involved and invest yourself spiritually, academically, emotionally, musically, athletically, and relationally as you serve God and your neighbor.

## In Memoriam



**Professor Emeritus Darvin Raddatz**  
1934-2021



**Professor Gwendolyn Tjernagel**  
1942-2021

For full obituaries, go to  
[mlc-wels.edu/history/professor-obituaries](http://mlc-wels.edu/history/professor-obituaries).



## Celebrating Ministry Anniversaries

**Professor Thomas Nass** 40 years, **Professor Douglas Lange** 40 years,  
**Professor Robert Klindworth** 40 years, **Professor James Unke** 40 years,  
**Professor Lori Unke** 25 years, **Professor Theodore Klug** 25 years,  
**Professor David Bauer** 45 years (not pictured)

## Welcoming New Faculty

### NEW VICE PRESIDENTS

**Mark Maurice**  
(Greater Milwaukee Foundation,  
WELS Foundation)  
VP for Mission Advancement

**Theodore Klug**  
(MLC Admissions Director)  
VP for Enrollment Management

### NEW FACULTY

**Melissa Berg**  
(St. Paul-Rapid City SD)  
Early Childhood Learning  
Center Director

**Isaiah Degner**  
(Fox Valley LHS)  
Professor of Spanish

**Heath Dobberpuhl**  
(Minnesota Valley LHS)  
Professor of Chemistry and Physics

**Rebecca Doering**  
(Great Plains LHS)  
Softball Coach and Professor of PE

**Halie Flores**  
(2022 MLC graduate)  
Admissions counselor

**Kayte Gut**  
(Shepherd of the Valley-Westminster CO)  
Professor of Early Childhood Ed

**Paul Huebner**  
(Shoreland LHS)  
Football Coach and Recruiter

**Mya Kessler-Peshon**  
(2021 MLC graduate)  
ECLC lead teacher

**Adam Pavelchik**  
(Mount Olive-Mankato MN)  
Professor of Education and  
Director of Field Experiences

**Rev. Nathaniel Savage**  
(2022 WLS graduate)  
Tutor

**Dr. Rachel Youngblom**  
(Phoenix, MLC online professor)  
Professor of Special Ed



**Julius Buelow**  
MLC 2012  
Carthage MO



**Janette Schramm**  
MLC 1997  
Jackson WI



**Richard Warner**  
NWC 1972  
Bradenton FL



**Jeanette Backer**  
DMLC 1957  
New Ulm MN



# MLC Governing Board Digest

By Vice President Scott Schmudlach DMLC '85

**Back row:** **Geoffrey Kieta** NWC '89, WLS '93 (*secretary*), Timothy Petermann, **Paul Prange** NWC '84, WLS '88 (*Ministerial Education administrator*), **Joe Archer** DMLC '77, **Dennis Klatt** NWC '84, WLS '88 (*Minnesota District president*), Thomas Walters (*advisory*), **Rich Gurgel** NWC '81, WLS '86 (*MLC president*); **middle row:** **Andrew Van Weele** MLC '04, Michael Krueger (*advisory*), Michael Valteau (*member-at-large*), **Mark Schroeder** NWC '77, WLS '81 (*WELS president*), **Joel Lauber** MLC '06, **Duane Rodewald** NWC '85, WLS '89 (*Ministerial Education chair*); **front row:** **Mark Wessel** NWC '82, WLS '86, **David Uhlhorn** MLC '99, **Daniel Leyrer** NWC '85, WLS '89, **Michael Lindemann** NWC '87, WLS '91 (*vice chair*), **Dale Krause\***, **Aaron Mueller** MLC '99, WLS '04 (*chair*); *not pictured:* **Thomas Klaudt**, **Steven Wasser** DMLC '92.

## September 30-October 1, 2021

**Staffing:** Approved the replacement of the vice president for mission advancement and six called professors: Spanish, music/dean of chapel, special education, early childhood education, science, and education/director of field experiences. (*See the names of the new faculty on page 33.*)

Resolved to seek WELS approval of an additional development counselor and a part-time financial wellness coordinator to work on a two-year pilot program with WELS high schools and middle schools.

**Programs:** Approved the development of a non-traditional teacher education program. (*Read more about Competency-Based Education on pages 24-25.*)

**Facilities:** Approved the use of \$500,000 of reserves to install air conditioning in Centennial dormitory. (*Subsequently funded by an anonymous donor.*)

**Financial Aid:** Approved the use of reserves to fund an increase in the Congregational Partner Grant Program match from \$1,000 to \$1,200, effective 2021-2022.

**Tuition:** Approved 3% increase in undergraduate tuition, room & board.

## February 20-21, 2022

**Staffing:** Resolved to reestablish position of vice president for enrollment management. Sought WELS approval to hire an assistant coach/strength coach/site manager and to call a softball coach/PE professor and an admissions counselor. (*See page 33.*)

**Programs:** Approved an Early Childhood Director Certificate program to facilitate baseline training in this ministry.

**Finances:** Approved resolution of support for ongoing discussions between MLC and WELS regarding an increase in the WELS subsidy.

**Financial Aid:** Adopted *Vision for the Future at MLC: Increasing Financial Aid & Reducing Student Debt*.

**Study:** Approved a continued study of the scriptural principles of the role of men and women in relation to the calling process at MLC.

\*Dale Krause was taken home to heaven December 30, 2021. We are grateful for his many years of service on the Governing Board and also for the Koinonia Fund established by him and his wife, Marsha, for student financial assistance. (*See page 16.*)



**Joel Prange**  
NWC 1962  
Watseka IL



**Robin Mundstock**  
DMLC 1987  
Waukegan IL



**Michael Nocella**  
MLC 2012  
Newport MI



**Rebekah Schmill**  
MLC 2007  
Manitowoc WI



# Focus On Alumni

## Welcome Back

Reunion classes are once again converging on campus to reminisce and enjoy treasured time together at their alma mater. Several groups have August and autumn plans. Learn more at [mlc-wels.edu/alumni/reunions](http://mlc-wels.edu/alumni/reunions).



The DMLC Class of 1970 enjoyed a 50+1-year reunion on campus. Their visit included a tour of New Ulm and a stop at Schell's Brewery.

**Aug 5-6 MLA 1977**

Contact: Matt Schlawin

**Aug 6 DMLC 1981**

Contact: Mike Pfeifer

**Sep 11-13 DMLC 1971**

Contact: Maggi Vilski

**Sep 16-18 MLA 1972**

Contact: Jackie Hieb

**Sep 27-28 DMLHS 1959**

Contact: Reg Just

Now is the time for milestone classes and other groups to plan their events. Contact the Alumni Relations Office ([alumni@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:alumni@mlc-wels.edu) or 507.233.9135) for assistance.

## New MLCAA Projects

The MLC Alumni Association is committed to supporting our alma mater in its goal of becoming “significantly more affordable without sacrificing an excellent college experience on a beautiful, well-equipped campus” (*Pursuing Excellence Under the Cross*). Note that 100% of all MLCAA gifts go to the MLC campus and students, 70% to the MLCAA Endowed Scholarship and 30% to enhance some area of campus or student life. This year, MLCAA gifts will provide a new synodical worship resource and introduce a new recreational sport to our students.



**Psalters:** The MLCAA bought new *Christian Worship: Hymnals* for campus. Now Professor Thomas Nass has proposed that we purchase new *Psalters* as well. The psalters contain multiple settings of all 150 psalms, allowing students to explore this great worship resource, one they'll surely use in their future ministries. We're hoping to buy 1,000 of them.



**TEQ Lite Tables:** Men's Soccer Coach Nick Schmoller proposed TEQ Lite tables. “TEQ Sports are becoming really popular. These curved tables are useful for developing soccer and volleyball skills and for playing ping-pong and pickle ball. They can be used by the whole student body in our Luther Student Center gym and the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse.”

Alumni Director Steve Balza notes, “Alumni regularly share how they appreciate the many opportunities for growth (spiritually, socially, emotionally, and academically) they had while here on the hill. Supporting student scholarships and resources such as these help current and future students enjoy those same blessings.”

### Want to be a part of this effort?

Send your check to  
MLCAA  
1995 Luther Ct  
New Ulm MN 56073

Or visit [bit.ly/22Projects](http://bit.ly/22Projects).

Or use the QR code to make an electronic gift.



**Thomas Schulz**  
DMLC 1987  
Saginaw MI



**Judith Vonderohe**  
DMLC 1967  
Norfolk NE



**Martin Schoell**  
DMLC 1972  
Highgate,  
South Australia



**Reinhard Bittorf**  
NWC 1952  
Monroe WI





OCTOBER  
7-9  
2022



# Homecoming Weekend

Mark your calendars and be sure to join us for a weekend packed with fun for the whole family. See the full slate of events—including the talent show, Knights athletics, Sprinter Fun Run, alumni mixer, second annual Disc Golf tournament, on-campus Homecoming worship, and more—at [mlc-wels.edu/homecoming](https://mlc-wels.edu/homecoming).

