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# Commencement Service

**December 14, 2017**



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE, New Ulm, Minnesota

*Pictures may be taken during the processional, the distribution of diplomas, and the recessional.  
Please remain seated for the processional.*

## Processional Hymn—Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending



*ALL:* 1 Lo, he comes with clouds de -  
*WOMEN:* 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be -  
*CHOIR:* 3 Those dear to - kens of his  
*ALL:* 4 Yea, A - men, let all a -



scend - ing, Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner  
 hold him Robed in glo - rious maj - es -  
 pas - sion Still his daz - zling bod - y  
 dore you High on your e - ter - nal



slain. Thou - sand, thou - sand  
 ty; Those who ri - di -  
 bears, Cause of end - less  
 throne. Ev - 'ry knee shall



saints at - tend - ing Swell the tri - umph  
 culed and sold him, Pierced and nailed him  
 ex - ul - ta - tion To his ran - somed  
 bow be - fore you; Come and take your



of his train. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 to the tree, *MEN:* Deep - ly wail - ing,  
 wor - ship - ers. With what won - der,  
 peo - ple home! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Deep - ly wail - ing, Deep - ly wail - ing,  
 With what won - der, With what won - der,  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ re - veals his end - less reign.  
 Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 Gaze we on those glo - rious scars.  
 You shall reign and you a - lone!

## Greeting

*Stand*

**M:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## Dialogue of Praise

**M:** O Lord, open my lips,

**C:** **And my mouth will declare your praise.**

*Psalm 51:15*

**M:** All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord;

**C:** **And they in turn would tell their children.**

*Psalm 86:9*

**M:** Future generations will be told about the Lord.

**C:** **They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn.**

*Psalm 22:30-31*

**M:** Let this be written for a future generation,  
that a people not yet created may praise the Lord:

**C:** **“The Lord looked down from his sanctuary on high,  
from heaven he viewed the earth,  
to hear the groans of the prisoners  
and release those condemned to death.”**

*Psalm 102:18-20*

**M:** My mouth will tell of your righteousness,  
of your salvation all day long,  
though I know not its measure.

**C:** **Even when I am old and gray,  
Do not forsake me, O God,  
Till I declare your power to the next generation,  
Your might to all who are to come.**

*Psalm 71:15,18*

**M:** One generation will commend your works to another;  
they will tell of your mighty acts.

**C:** **They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.**

*Psalm 145:4-5*

*Be seated*

## Lesson — Isaiah 55:10-11

As the rain and the snow  
    come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it  
    without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
    so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,  
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
    It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
    and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

## Choral Response

### I Will Greatly Rejoice

Knut Nystedt  
*Text: Isaiah 61:10-11*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
for my soul shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up;  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring forth before all nations!

*Stand*

## The Gospel — Luke 1:67-79

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
    because he has come to his people and redeemed them.  
He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
    in the house of his servant David  
(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),  
salvation from our enemies  
    and from the hand of all who hate us—  
to show mercy to our ancestors  
    and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
    to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,  
and to enable us to serve him without fear  
    in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven  
to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

*Be seated*

### **Hymn—Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices (CW 194)**

Oh, that I had a thousand voices To praise my God with thousand tongues!  
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices, Would then proclaim in grateful songs  
To all, wherever I might be, What great things God has done for me.

Dear Father, endless praise I render For soul and body, nobly joined;  
I praise you Guardian kind and tender, For all the daily joys I find  
So richly spread on every side And freely for my use supplied.

I praise you, Savior, whose compassion Has brought you down to ransom me;  
Your pitying heart sought my salvation; You bore the cross triumphantly,  
Brought me from bondage full release, Made me your own and gave me peace.

Glory and praise, still onward reaching, Be yours, O Spirit of all grace,  
Whose holy pow’r and faithful teaching Give me among your saints a place.  
Whatever good by me is done Is worked by grace divine alone.

Shall I not then be filled with gladness? Shall I not praise you evermore  
And triumph over fear and sadness, Although my cup of woe runs o'er?  
Though heaven and earth shall disappear, Your endless love is ever near.

### **Sermon — Acts 20:24**

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

## Choral Response

### All Praise to Thee

Elaine Hagenberg  
*Text: Martin Luther*

All praise to Thee, Eternal God,  
Who, clothed in a garb of flesh and blood,  
Dost take a manger for Thy throne,  
While worlds on worlds are Thine alone. Alleluia

Thou comest in the darksome night  
To make us children of the light;  
To make us, in the realms divine,  
Like Thine own angels round Thee shine. Alleluia

A little Child, Thou art our Guest,  
That weary ones in Thee may rest;  
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth;  
That we may rise to heav'n from earth. Alleluia. Amen.

### Conferring of Degrees *Please reserve applause for the Presentation of the Class.*

### Hymn—Praise to You and Adoration (CW 470)

Praise to you and adoration, Blessed Jesus, Son of God,  
Who, to serve your own creation, Came to share our flesh and blood.  
Guide me that I never may From your fold or pastures stray,  
But with zeal and joy exceeding Follow where your steps are leading.

Hold me ever in your keeping; Comfort me in pain and strife.  
In my laughter and my weeping Be with me throughout my life.  
Give me greater love for you, And my faith and hope renew  
In your birth, your life, and passion, In your death and resurrection.

*Stand*

### Prayer

M: Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for giving your Church men and women who are qualified to serve in the public ministry.

All: **Bless every servant of your Word who proclaims Christ crucified for sinners as the wisdom and power of God.**

M: We pray especially for our graduates, who have successfully completed their course of study at this college of ministry.

Graduates: Lord, from your hand we are willing to accept the joys and the sorrows of life. Keep us from sin, comfort us with your Word, and bless our service to you.

**All others: You have promised to be with them. Watch over their lives, both now and forevermore. Keep them faithful to your Word, that they may continue to grow in wisdom, righteousness, and holiness.**

M: Gracious Lord, continue to bless Martin Luther College with instructors who recognize Jesus Christ as wisdom's highest and noblest treasure, and with students who are committed to preparing themselves for the public ministry of your Church.

Faculty &  
Students: Help us use our talents and energies in joyful service to you.

M: Lord God, watch over the lives of all your people. Dispel our fears, strengthen us in our weakness, and finally bring us all to everlasting glory through the merits of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**All: In his name we pray. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: Amen. (spoken)**

## **Hymn—God's Word is Our Great Heritage**

God's Word is our great heritage  
And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way;  
In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
We keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations.

*Be seated*

# Presentation of the Graduates, December 2017

## Recessional

*Following the recessional, please usher yourselves out of the sanctuary.*

## Service Participants

Preacher	Rev. Mark Zarling <i>President, MLC</i>
Presenting degrees	Dr. Jeff Wiechman <i>Vice-president for Academics, MLC</i>
Organist	Prof. Craig Hirschmann <i>Professor of Music, MLC</i>
Martin Luther College Choir Conductor	Prof. Adrian Smith <i>Professor of Music, MLC</i>
Graduation Marshal	Michelle Gartner <i>Event Coordinator, MLC</i>
Instrumentalists	Matthew Scharp, <i>trumpet</i> Emma Schibbelhut, <i>trumpet</i> Carl Boeder, <i>trombone</i> Donovan Williams, <i>trombone</i> Zachary Scharlemann, <i>timpani</i> Raquel Freese, <i>piano</i>



# **Bachelor of Science in Education**

**Major:**

**Early Childhood Education**



Elizabeth M. Bergemann  
Sussex, WI



Abigail K. Braun  
Crofton, NE

# **Bachelor of Science in Education**

**Major:**

**Elementary Education**



Angela K. Bode  
Sleepy Eye, MN



Allison E. Bovee  
New Ulm, MN



Alanna G. Habben  
Waukesha, WI



Stephanie A. Johnson  
Cleveland, WI



Mary E. Meyer  
New Ulm, MN



Raine L. Vrable  
Bay City, MI

## **Bachelor of Science in Education**

### **Major: Secondary Education**



Elizabeth E. Henning  
Kewaskum, WI  
Mathematics



Hannah E. Uher  
Milwaukee, WI  
Chemistry/Life Science

## **Bachelor of Science in Education**

### **Major: K-12 Music**



Jonathan D. Witte  
Fond du Lac, WI  
Instrumental Music

## **Bachelor of Science in Education**

**Majors:**

**Elementary Education**

**Early Childhood Education**



Rachel L. Frost  
Appleton, WI

## **Bachelor of Science in Education**

**Majors:**

**Elementary Education**

**Secondary Education**



Eric K. Uher  
Waukesha, WI  
Social Studies

# Completing Certificate Programs

## Chaplain

Wayne C. Conner, Menominee, MI  
Lawrence R. Gates, Waukesha, WI  
Alan E. Hairsine, Gaylord, MN  
Michael S. Indest, New Orleans, LA  
Benjamin K. Kratz, Birmingham, AL  
Jon D. Woldt, Round Lake, IL

## Educational Technology

Russell D. Klatt, Belleville, WI  
David D. Leonard, Kenosha, WI

## Evangelism

Jennifer K. Penske, Vesta, MN  
Scott R. Rich, Sparta, WI

## Mentoring and Coaching

Paula J. Thusius, Kenosha, WI

## Teaching Online

Matthew J. Buchholz, Weyauwega, WI