

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE
NEW ULM, MN

A Ceremony of Groundbreaking
for

BETTY KOHN FIELDHOUSE

Saturday, April 10, 2021 – 10:00 am

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are here to ask God's blessing as we set apart this ground for the building of a fieldhouse to serve the needs of our college of ministry and the New Ulm community.

M: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C: the Maker of heaven and earth.

M: Unless the LORD builds the house,

C: its builders labor in vain.

M: Praise to you, O LORD our God, King of the universe. Heaven and earth are full of your glory; hallowed be your name in all the world! In loving-kindness you have gathered us around your pure Word and Sacraments and continue to keep us in the saving faith in Christ Jesus. By grace you have given us the privilege to labor, teach, and study at our WELS College of Ministry. And now with thanksgiving we come before you in worship and praise for your goodness as we break ground for the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse.

We turn to you at the beginning of this project, for, as your Word declares, in vain do we labor without your guiding presence and blessing in our lives. Open our hearts to your goodness as we bring before you in prayer our hopes and dreams for this facility. May your glory dwell here, and may your grace continue to be revealed through the words and actions of all who use this building. May your love descend like the dew from heaven on this place and on all who gather here; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. (1 Corinthians 3:10-14)

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. (Matthew 7:24-27)

The planning committee chair, VP Scott Schmudlach, steps forward and gives a shovel to the presiding minister, VP Michael Otterstatter.

M: Since, by the grace of God, we are permitted to begin the construction of the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse at this place today, with this shovel I now break this ground in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, in order that the building which will be constructed here may serve as a place where his honor will live, where his work will be done, and where his name will be glorified. With faith in Jesus Christ we break this ground in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

MLC Administration - Pres. Rich Gurgel, AD Jim Unke, VP Scott Schmudlach, VP Jeff Wiechman - will each turn over a piece of ground. As they do, the presiding minister and congregation will speak the following psalm verses responsively:

M: This is the day the LORD has made;

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

M: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

C: My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD:

M: My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

C: Blessed are those who dwell in your house, O LORD; they are ever praising you.

MLC coaches - Randy Cox, Dan Gawrisch, Paul Koelpin, Doug Lange, Matt Pearson, Jeff Schone, Mark Stein - will each turn over a piece of ground. As they do, the presiding minister and congregation will speak the following psalm verses responsively:

M: The LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him;

C: Strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

M: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations,

C: Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

MLC students - Mason Cox, Jordyn Heckendorf, Clayton Hirsch, Josh Wordell, Elena Hoffman, Kyle Lindemann, Sophie Cloute, Sam Boeder - will each turn over a piece of ground. As they do, the presiding minister and congregation will speak the following psalm verses responsively:

M: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

C: Bring an offering and come into his courts.

M: May the favor of the LORD our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us.

C: Yes, establish the work of our hands. Amen.

PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, we praise your name that you have moved us, guided us, and empowered us, so that now we begin to build on this site to honor and glorify you. We thank you for the hard work of the members of our planning committee and the time they have given to this project. We praise you for the talent and skill you have given to all those who have been intimately involved in this project, providing knowledge and leadership. Give your grace to all who will be involved in the construction of this building. Keep them from harm and danger, and give them a sense of diligence, that the construction may be completed in due time, that the building may then be set apart to your glory, and that your holy name may be proclaimed here to all generations, through Jesus Christ, our LORD, in whose name we join in praying the Lord's Prayer.

ADDRESS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rich Gurgel – President of MLC