
Commencement Service

Call Service

May 13, 2023



New Ulm, Minnesota

Mission of Martin Luther College

The mission of Martin Luther College is to train a corps of Christian witnesses who are qualified to meet the ministry needs of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and who are competent to proclaim the Word of God faithfully and in accord with the Lutheran Confessions in the Book of Concord.

To meet the current ministry needs of the WELS, Martin Luther College

- Prepares men for pastoral training at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary;
 - Prepares men and women for service as teachers and staff ministers in the synod's churches, schools, and other institutions;
 - Prepares men and women for other church ministries, both full and part-time, responding to the needs of the WELS;
 - Prepares international students for ministry in partnership with WELS mission fields; and
 - Provides programs of continuing education that meet the ministerial needs of the WELS.
-

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (Jn 14:6).

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Sunday’s gospel, we heard the words of Jesus printed above.

Jesus spoke these words on Maundy Thursday in the upper room. Jesus had just told his disciples not to let their hearts be troubled. Even though he was going away, he was going to his Father’s house to prepare a place for them. Jesus finished with these words: “You know the place where I am going” (Jn 14:4).

In the midst of the shock that struck the apostles whenever Jesus spoke about his upcoming death, resurrection, and return to his Father, Thomas responded: “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” (Jn 14:5).

In response, Jesus spoke the words above. Those words are first of all powerfully comforting. To know our Lord Jesus is to know the way to heaven. To know our Lord Jesus is to know the truth of our salvation through his life and death in our place. To know our Lord Jesus is to be assured that we who believe in him will “live, even though [we] die. And whoever lives and believes in [him] will never die” (Jn 11:26).

But, of course, Jesus’ words also speak a warning. To try to find a way to heaven apart from him is to miss eternal life. Only the eternal Son of God can make us co-heirs with him of the Father’s home!

In that single verse from Jesus’ mouth, we know why Martin Luther College (MLC) exists. We exist to raise up a new generation of staff ministers, teachers, and pastors whose hearts are filled to overflowing with the wonder of him who is the way, the truth, and the life. We exist to help our entire campus family remember what alone quiets the confusion of our hearts.

And we pray every graduate is emboldened by that same gospel to proclaim in every setting of their lives—from their royal priestly callings at home, to their public ministry callings in the world—that “salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Proclaiming that conviction may open us up to accusations of being narrow-minded and intolerant. But that is far from the truth. Proclaiming the gospel offers to a world of sinners the eternal life that has been won for them all in Jesus.

Such, we are confident, is the conviction of every MLC graduate before you. Such, we pray, remains the confession of their lives and ministries!

In Him who is our way, truth, and life,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Gurgel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rich" and last name "Gurgel" clearly distinguishable.

Rich Gurgel

President, Martin Luther College

To the glory of God and for the good of his Church!

Explanation of attire

Welcome to the 2023 Commencement Service at Martin Luther College. You will see graduates receiving a variety of degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, and Master of Science.

This year, 23 people have completed one of our master's programs, for a total of 236 master's degrees granted since the program's inception in 2005.

Academic apparel worn by faculty and graduates in any college setting has its origins in the Middle Ages. Because most universities grew out of church schools, both faculty and students wore clothing that was based upon monastic dress and that reflected a need for warmth in the unheated stone colleges.

Wearing of such apparel is an adiaphoron, something neither commanded nor forbidden by our Lord in his Word. In Christian freedom we can choose to follow such academic traditions or not. In this commencement, the MLC faculties will visibly demonstrate that freedom: Our graduate faculty has chosen to wear academic apparel, and our undergraduate faculty has chosen not to.

By a miracle of the Holy Spirit, professors in both faculties have humbly submitted their lives and their educational achievements to Christ for the advancement of his kingdom. Although they no doubt could garner more reputation and remuneration in public settings, they have given their time and talents to train students at MLC for gospel service, to the glory of God and for the good of his Church. They have servant hearts.

While the vast majority hold advanced degrees, the undergraduate faculty wears normal attire to emphasize that we train students not just for academic achievement, but for ministry. The graduate faculty wears apparel that emphasizes lifelong learning, done to God's glory and in submission to the gospel we proclaim. The various colors of their apparel indicate not only their area of study, but also the degree-granting institution.

Our baccalaureate graduates wear tassels signifying their field of study: light blue indicates a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Science in Education degree; red indicates a Bachelor of Arts degree. A hood is worn by our master's graduates. The colors of the hood signify the area of study and the colors of MLC.

A small percentage of our students are from a foreign country, Christians in our fellowship seeking to prepare for ministry. What a privilege for MLC to serve them. These graduates wear stoles with the colors and insignia of their homelands. May the stoles be a vivid reminder that Jesus said "all nations" in the Great Commission entrusted to his church.

God has given these gifts to us, to his glory, and for the good of the church. *SDG*

MLC Faculty

Tenured

Baganz, Peter A
Balge, Daniel N
Behnken, Jacob C
Berg, Darrell T
Biedenbender, David K
Boeder, John C
Carlovsky, James D
Clemons, Benjamin P
Cox, Rebecca L
Czer, Lawrence J
Danell Jr, James C
Degner, Isaiah W
Diersen, Gregory T
Dobberpuhl, Heath D
Doering, Rebecca L
Dose, Brian L
Feld, Rachel M
Fenske, Daniel J
Flores, Halie R
Fredrich, Joel D
Fredrich, Rachel R
Gawrisch, Daniel P
Green, Kelli L
Grubbs, Paul J
Grundmeier, Timothy D
Gurgel, Richard L
Gut, Kathryn S
Hennig, Brian K
Hennig, Grace A
Hirschmann, Craig R
Holzhueter, Greg A
Huebner, Paul D
Klindworth, Robert F
Klug, Theodore A
Koelpin, Paul E
Krause, Jennifer L
Laabs, Jonathan A
LaGrow, Nichole A
Lange, Douglas F
Mehlberg, Jennifer A
Meyer, John E
Munte, Kari A
Nass, Thomas P
Ohm, Ronald C
Olson, Breanna L
Olson, Lawrence O
Paustian, Mark A

Pavelchik, Adam D
Pearson, Matthew S
Pekrul, William A
Robinson, Aaron T
Roux, Jonathan A
Santos, Martin
Schaefer, Jonathan M
Scharf, David G
Scharf, Hannah H
Schmoller, Nicolas C
Schmudlach, Scott D
Schone, Jeffrey L
Schwartz, Tingting Z
Smith, Adrian R
Stelljes, Ross A
Tacke, Mark W
Thomford, Joel W
Thompson, Luke G
Uher, Alan E
Unke, Lori L
Waldschmidt, Daniel W
Wessel, Keith C
Whaley, Cynthia E
Wiechman, Jeffery P
Wurster, Miles B
Youngblom, Rachel K
Zarnstorff, Tyson J

Tutors

Savage, Nathaniel D
Schroeder, Philip D

Adjunct Classroom Instructors

Bases, Paul A
Gawrisch, Kaitlin A
Hopp, Brian P
Hunter, Samuel A
Kassuelke, Megan R
Krohn, JoElyn K
Laabs, Erin R
Loomis, Cheryl A
Plocher, Michael D
Schmidt, John H
Schmoller, Katherine E
Urtel, Elisabeth J
Wels, Haley G

Adjunct Keyboard Instructors

Balge, Bethel A
Boeder, Bethel J
Carlovsky, Kathryn E
Martens, Judith L
Trebelhorn, Julianne B
Vogel, Marianne E
Wiechman, Elizabeth J

Adjunct Voice Instructors

Haugen, Jennifer E
Wurster, Kathryn M

Adjunct Instrument Instructors

Backer, Warren B
Becker, Barb
Bierer, Thomas J
Rader, Ryan D
Stordalen, David J
Urness, David J
Wamma, Mark S

Graduate Faculty

Bakken, Richard E
Berg, Michael J
Boeder, John C
Carlovsky, James D
Cherney, Kenneth A
DeLorme, Carolyn M
Ehlers, Rachel M
Grundmeier, Timothy D
Grunwald, James R
Hanneman, Daryl B
Holtz, Lowell E
Huebner, Philip J
Johnson, Daniel W
Klindworth, Robert F
Kolander, John D
LaGrow, Martin P
Lemke, Jeffrey C
Lienig, Alanna M
Lowrey, Jason H
Martens, Robert L
Mears, Joshua T
Meyer, John E

Munte, Kari A
Murphy, Mark W
Olson, Lawrence O
Paustian, Mark A
Pfeifer, Carrie F
Pfeifer, Gene R
Plath, Timothy M
Pless, Joel L
Potratz, Gail M
Rathje, Ryan J
Rouech, Kristina E
Roux, Jonathan A
Russ, Todd A
Sallquist, Julie A
Schaefer, Jonathan M
Schmidt, Jason E
Schuetze, John D
Smith, Michael K
Spriggs, Martin A
Steinberg, Paul S
Tackmier, Bill J
Tess, Paul A
Wendland, Paul O
Wessel, Keith C
Whaley, Cynthia E
Wiechman, Jeffery P
Youngblom, Rachel K

MLC Governing Board

Board Members

Mr. Joe E. Archer
Mr. Paul H. Kelm
Rev. Geoffrey A. Kieta, Secretary
Mr. Thomas M. Klaudt
Mr. Joel T. Lauber
Rev. Michael A. Lindemann, Vice Chair
Mr. Timothy Luetzow
Rev. Aaron T. Mueller, Chairman
Rev. Peter M. Prange
Mr. David J. Uhlhorn
Mr. Michael S. Valleau
Mr. Andrew W. Van Weele
Mr. Steven M. Wasser

Advisory

Dr. Richard L. Gurgel, President, Martin Luther College
Rev. Dennis C. Klatt, President, Minnesota District, WELS
Mr. Michael G. Krueger, Board Appointed Advisory
Rev. Paul T. Prange, Administrator, Board for Ministerial Education, WELS
Rev. Duane A. Rodewald, Chair, Board for Ministerial Education, WELS
Rev. Mark G. Schroeder, President, WELS
Mr. Thomas C. Walters, Board Appointed Advisory

Commencement Service

10:00 a.m.

Processional

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

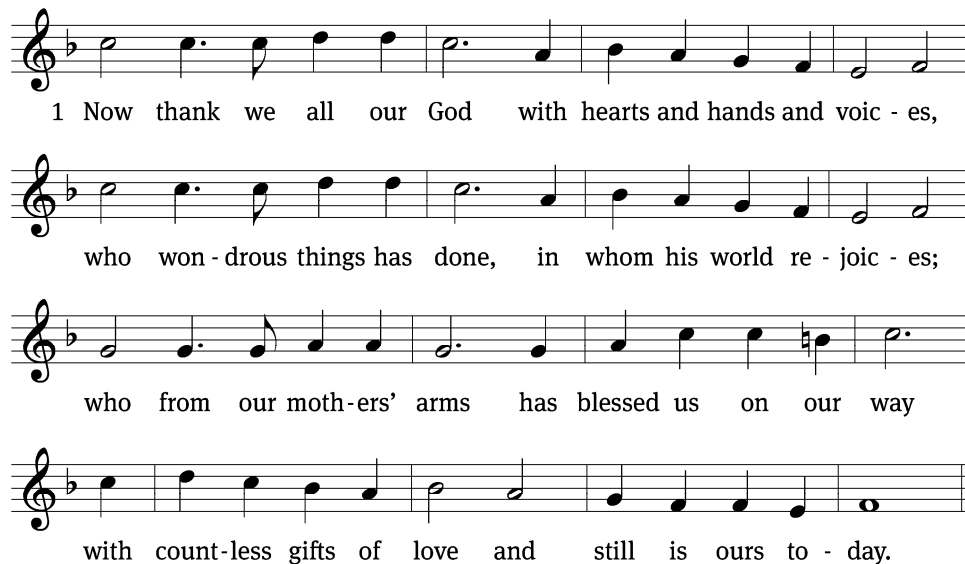
Amen.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness.
Come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his.
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever.
His faithfulness continues through all generations.



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love and still is ours to-day.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin Rinkert, 1586–1649
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we come before you with thanksgiving on this joy-filled day. As you began the good work of salvation in these graduates, so we are confident you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Strengthen them daily with your Word and Sacrament so that they may always be comforted with your saving presence, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

Reading

2 Corinthians 4:1-6,16-18

¹Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

He Will Hold Me Fast (CW 813)

Arranged by James Koerts

Choir: He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

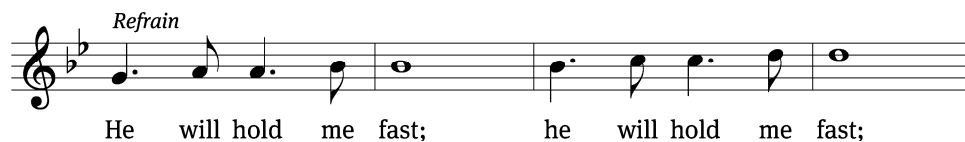
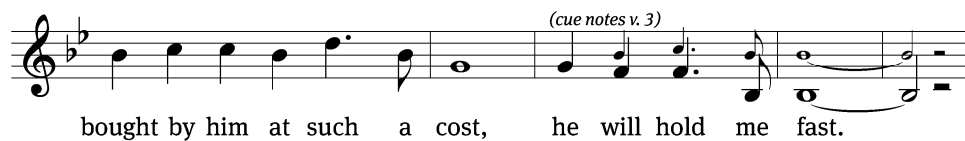
When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path,
For my love is often cold—he must hold me fast.

Congregation:

Refrain

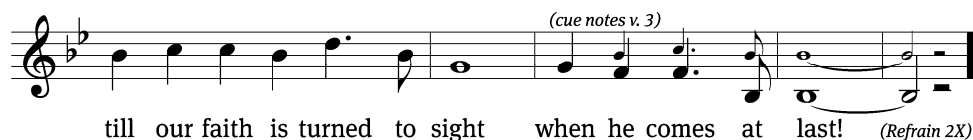
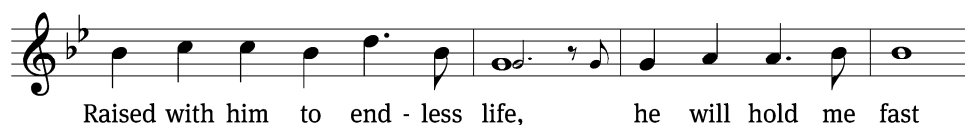
The musical notation is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is the refrain: 'He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;'. The second staff continues the refrain: 'for my Sav-ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.'. The third staff is the first verse: '2 Those he saves are his de - light; Christ will hold me fast;'. The fourth staff is the second verse: 'pre-cious in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast.'. The fifth staff is the final line: 'He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom - is - es shall last;'. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) and rests, with lyrics written below the notes.

He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;
for my Sav-ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.
2 Those he saves are his de - light; Christ will hold me fast;
pre-cious in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom - is - es shall last;



Choir: For my life he bled and died; Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.

Congregation:



Choir: He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Text (sts. 1-2): Matt Merker, b. 1984, alt.; (sts. 1, Ref, 2): Ada Habershon, 1861-1918; (st. 3): Matt Merker, b. 1984
Tune: Matt Merker, b. 1984
Text (sts. 1-2): Public domain
Text (sts. Ref, 3) and tune: © 2013 Getty Music Publishing and Matt Merker, admin. MusicServices.org. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 704209

Sermon

Isaiah 41:10

¹⁰So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

The saving hand of your God holds you fast!

Choir

I Run to Christ

Chris Anderson / Greg Habegger

Arranged by Molly Ijames

I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a refuge sure.
“Believe in me,” his voice I hear; his words and wounds secure.
I run to Christ when torn by grief and find abundant peace.
“I too had tears,” he gently speaks; thus joy and sorrow meet.

I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul refreshed.
“Come unto me,” he calls through strife; fatigue gives way to rest.
I run to Christ when vexed by hell and find a mighty arm.
“The devil flees,” the Scriptures tell; he roars but cannot harm.

I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure escape.
“Deliver me,” I cry to him; temptation yields to grace.
I run to Christ when plagued by shame and find my one defense.
“I bore God’s wrath,” he pleads my case—my advocate and friend.
I run to Christ in joy, in grief, and worship at his feet.

Presentation of Diplomas

Please reserve applause for the Presentation of the Class of 2023, which occurs after the blessing and announcements.

Stand

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the good and perfect gifts that you give us. We remember especially today the gift of this school of ministry, the blessings of the past school year, parents and all others who support the training of future ministers of your Word with prayers and gifts, faithful students who apply themselves to their tasks with diligence, dedicated faculty and staff who follow your ways, and our church body that comes together to proclaim the good news to all people.

Above all, we thank you for our Savior Jesus and the forgiveness he has won for us.

O Lord, bless our graduates. Bless those who will begin public ministry as teachers and staff ministers. Give them strength and joy in their work of sharing the gospel.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bless those who will continue their preparation for pastoral ministry at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary with patience and resolve.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bless those who will serve you as lay members in their congregations or in international fields of service.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In all we do, give us the strength of faith to do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, as we give thanks to you. Hear us as we ask these things in his name and pray as he has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord makes his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

Be seated

Choir

Peace I Leave with You

John 14:27
René Clausen

Peace I leave with you, peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives I give to you.
Peace, my peace I give to you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Amen.

Announcements

Recognition of Those Concluding Service

Amber Barcalow (accepting a call in May)
Bethel Boeder (spouse accepted a call)
John Boeder (accepted a call)
Halie Flores (accepted a call)
Paul Henning (retiring May 2023)
Claire Hirsch (spouse accepting a call in May)
Gwen Kral (retired December 2022)
Doug Lange (retiring June 2023)
Ron Ohm (retiring June 2023)
Jessica Schmidt (accepted a call)
Philip Schroeder (accepting a call in May)
Sarah Schroeder (spouse accepting a call in May)
Joyce Schubkegel (retired from adjunct position)
Tingting Schwartz (completing service)
Jim Unke (called home to heaven)

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Tim Grundmeier
MLC Faculty Secretary

Preacher

Rev. Dr. Rich Gurgel
MLC President

Assisting with Distribution of Diplomas

Dr. Jeff Wiechman
MLC Vice President for Academics

Organist

Prof. Craig Hirschmann
MLC Music Division

Graduation Choir

Prof. Adrian Smith
MLC Music Division

Piano

Carolyn Bauer
Hope Sulzle

Cello

Aric Reim

Graduation Marshal

Michelle Gartner
MLC Events Coordinator

International students wearing stoles representing their home countries:

Juan David Escobar, Colombia
Hoonsik Jo, Republic of Korea
Zihui Lou, China
Kostiantyn Skorenkyi, Ukraine

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.
Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.
Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Bachelor of Arts



Calvin E. Arstein
Boise, ID



August C. Biga
Dexter, MI



Ezra U. Blumer
Lakeville, MN



Parker A. Brown
Conroe, TX



Aspen J. Bue
Black River Falls, WI



Christopher D. Crenshaw
Livonia, MI



Samuel A. Eickhoff
Sheboygan Falls, WI



Samuel W. Engel
Red Wing, MN



Juan D. Escobar Amaya
Doral, FL



Zachary R. Gregorius
Watertown, WI



Brice E. Guse
Fond du Lac, WI



Seth C. Hackbarth
Lake Mills, WI



Benjamin D. Hahm
Hilton, NY



Alexander A. Heiman
Sahuarita, AZ



Caleb M. Hengst
Weatherford, TX



Connor G. Herter
Pinckney, MI



Benjamin A. Hillmer
Oconomowoc, WI



Kelvin S. Johannes
Lowell, AR



Cooper J. Knoll
West Bend, WI



Caleb M. Lindholm
Reedsburg, WI



Collin J. Maurice
Watertown, WI



Samuel S. Muske
Freeland, MI



Zachary T. Neumann
Kenosha, WI



Isaiah E. Pederson
Coon Rapids, MN



Mason T. Prost
Watertown, WI



Joel M. Schewe
Janesville, WI



Jacob S. Schwark
Elkhorn, WI



Benjamin D. Schwartz
Bremerton, WA



Kostiantyn Skorenkyi
Kyiv, Ukraine



Zachary J. Thiel
Boulder, CO



Jack T. Vogel
Grand Rapids, MI



Joseph N. Wessel
New Ulm, MN



Josiah S. Winkel
Milwaukee, WI



Douglas M. Zabel
Lake City, MN

Seminary Certification



Adam W. Arrowsmith
Bay City, MI



Eli P. Sievert
Yorba Linda, CA



Charles E. Ungemach
Trevor, WI

Bachelor of Science in Education

Major: Early Childhood Education



Molly E. Bauer
North Hollywood, CA



Alexandra J. Dabe
Cincinnati, OH



Katherine H. Fink
Kenosha, WI



Madelyn E. Holtz
Appleton, WI



Rhianna C. Hunter
Madison, WI



Lauren B. Kamps
Coleman, WI



Jee Ah D. Larsen
Pewaukee, WI



Lynsey G. Marohn
Reedsville, WI



Elise N. Matthies
Lake Mills, WI



Holly E. Meyer
Burton, MI



Ashlee E. Olsen
Louis Corners, WI



Alaina M. Qualmann
Crossville, TN



Sophia E. Qualmann
Crossville, TN



Alyssa T. Roethke
Hartford, WI



Grace E. Winkel
Hartford, WI

Bachelor of Science in Education

Major: Elementary Education



Jonah J. Christenson
Cornell, WI



Alexandria J. Conrad
Scotland, SD



Stephanie E. Dalueg
New Ulm, MN



Lindsey M. Doyen
Oneida, WI



Jace W. Fellers
Monroe, NC



Lexi R. Fischer
Courtland, MN



Adia M. Gabb
Los Angeles, CA



Margaret E. Gabb
Hernando, FL



Erika A. Gosch
Rapid City, SD



Tabitha G. Gregorius
Watertown, WI



Stephanie R. Ham
Sioux Falls, SD



Alyssa M. Heckendorf
Reno, NV



Claire A. Herman
Flushing, MI



Abigail L. Hillmer
Katy, TX



Lisa A. Hoffer
Plymouth, MN



Samuel R. Holzbauer
Eagle River, WI



Hoonsik Jo
Seoul, South Korea



Amanda M. Kant
Vallejo, CA



Micah A. Kieselhorst
Watertown, WI



Evan J. Korthals
Kingston, MI



Hannah E. Kratz
Birmingham, AL



Matthew R. Krueger
De Pere, WI



Leah M. Kuchenbecker
De Pere, WI



Rebecca J. Loescher
Jackson, WI



Megan L. Martin
Sheboygan, WI



Madylin A. Mielke
Inver Grove Heights, MN



Melody A. Morris
Clermont, FL



Josie M. O'Brien
Fond du Lac, WI



Rebecca J. Orth
Beaver Dam, WI



Cassandra G. Pasbrig
West Bend, WI
in absentia



Ally L. Platzer
Olivet, MI



Jonah N. Plocher
Garden Grove, CA



Elsa A. Ponath
Stillwater, MN



Nicole M. Porter
New Ulm, MN



Rebecca L. Rivera
Wethersfield, CT



Emily F. Rothfuss
Bay City, MI



Melina R. Satorius
Annandale, VA



Sophia M. Scheuerlein
Watertown, WI



Emma A. Schleicher
Sturgeon Bay, WI



Rachel E. Sickinger
Oshkosh, WI



Grace E. Sievert
Yorba Linda, CA



Sydney E. Stobb
Westland, MI



Brianna M. Strutz
Milwaukee, WI
in absentia



Amanda J. Weddle
Tomah, WI



Emma M. Wilson
Manitowoc, WI



Kylie M. Wolf
Greenville, WI



Keegan A. Young
Manitowoc, WI



Daniel A. Zabel
Lake City, MN



Elizabeth A. Zabel
Appleton, WI



Natalie R. Zirbel
De Pere, WI

Bachelor of Science in Education

Major: Secondary Education



Jonah R. Babinec
Kenosha, WI
Social Studies



Sheldon L. Habben
Waukesha, WI
Social Studies



Maxwell C. Holmes
Sturtevant, WI
Chemistry/Physics



Joel T. Holz
Clarksville, TN
Social Studies



Isabelle L. Kettler
Henderson, MI
Chemistry/Life Science



Conor N. Kopp
Appleton, WI
Communication Arts & Literature



Nicholas S. Mitchell
South Haven, MI
Communication Arts & Literature



Joseph P. Nash
Wildomar, CA
Mathematics



Hannah M. Schneekloth
Mabel, MN
Chemistry/Life Science



Benjamin B. Washburn
Jackson, WI
Social Studies



Hannah G. Willems
Johnson Creek, WI
Social Studies



Noah T. Worster
York, NE
Social Studies

Bachelor of Science in Education

Majors:

K-12 Music

K-12 Spanish

K-12 Special Education



Kortney M. Behnke
Appleton, WI
Special Education



Jenna M. Kassen
Racine, WI
Spanish



Ryan J. Kluba
Manitowoc, WI
Instrumental Music/Vocal Music



Andrew J. Kramer
Redwood Falls, MN
Instrumental Music/Vocal Music



Zihui Lou
Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China
Spanish



Haley D. Martin
Saginaw, MI
Vocal Music



Lucas A. Martin
Jefferson, WI
Spanish



Zirui Wang
Changchun, Jilin, China
Instrumental Music/Vocal Music
in absentia

Bachelor of Science in Education

Majors:
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education



Abigail L. Bartel
Baraboo, WI



Hannah M. Renner
Rochester, MN



Chantel M. Vant Hul
Sleepy Eye, MN

Bachelor of Science in Education

Majors:
Early Childhood Education
Theological Studies



Grace M. Bain
Onalaska, WI

Bachelor of Science in Education

Majors:
Elementary Education
Secondary Education



Maya G. Aden
Reedsville, WI
Communication Arts & Literature



Noah M. Arnold
Oconto Falls, WI
Life Science



Alyssa M. Bergemann
Port Orchard, WA
Social Studies



Janessa L. Brock
Happy Valley, CA
Communication Arts & Literature



Sarah G. Brooks
Janesville, WI
Special Education



Michael W. Fromm
Milwaukee, WI
Social Studies



David H. Hirsch
Manhattan, KS
Social Studies



Hannah J. Mayer
Fort Atkinson, WI
Spanish



Kaitlyn E. Roux
New Ulm, MN
Communication Arts & Literature



Jewel S. St. Germaine
Random Lake, WI
Physical Education



Megan A. Wassermann
Maple Lake, MN
Mathematics

Bachelor of Science

Major: Staff Ministry



Josiah R. Klatt
Belleville, WI



Ryan C. Kohl
Antioch, IL



Jarrett D. Mielke
Sarasota, FL

Bachelor of Science

Major: Educational Studies



Samantha L. Colvin
Watertown, WI

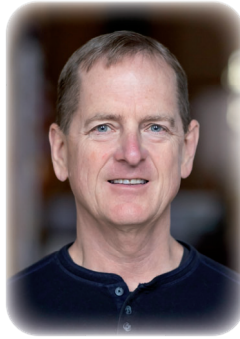


Noah J. Kahrs
Jackson, WI



Timothy R. Trautloff
New Ulm, MN

Synod Certification for Parish Staff Ministry



Patrick R. Ruehrdanz
Mukwonago, WI

Completing Certificate Programs

Chaplain

Eugene J. Bartley
Phoenix, AZ

Brian K. Diring
Windsor, WI

Daryl T. Kliment
Manitowoc, WI

Timothy B. Kosteretz
Germantown, WI

Justin E. Shrum
Appleton, WI

Evangelism

Robert Wilcott
Friendswood, TX

Synod Certification for Parish Staff Ministry

Jack L. Vande Guchte
New London, WI

Teaching Online

Michael J. Fetcenko
Holmen, WI

Mentoring and Coaching

Amanda L. Berg
Milwaukee, WI

Gretchen M. Plitzuweit
Green Bay, WI

Jennifer K. Rannow
Raleigh, NC

Anne M. Zeitler
Crystal, MN

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies program provides spiritual and professional growth through advanced studies in Scripture, doctrine, church history, and ministry.

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree is designed primarily for ministry-certified staff ministers and teachers, providing them with a broader and deeper theological foundation for their public ministry service. The degree is also open to qualified laypersons who meet the entrance requirements, allowing them to grow spiritually as they serve in their various vocations and as members of their congregations. This degree, by itself, does not qualify one for a called ministry position.



Steven W. Biedenbender
New Ulm, MN



Benjamin L. Carlovsky
Milwaukee, WI
in absentia



John E. Kramer
Calumet, MI

Current Service:

St. Paul's Lutheran School
New Ulm, MN
Teacher
2002-

Previous Service:

Luther Preparatory School
Watertown, WI
Teacher
1997-2002

Shoreland Lutheran High School
Kenosha, WI
Teacher
1990-1997

St. Peter's Lutheran School
Sturgeon Bay, WI
Teacher
1987-1990

Other degrees:

BS Education
Dr. Martin Luther College
1987

Current Service:

Wisconsin Lutheran High School
Milwaukee, WI
Teacher
2020-

Previous Service:

Abiding Word Lutheran School
Houston, TX
Principal/Teacher
2014-2020

St. Paul Lutheran School
Green Bay, WI
Staff Minister/Teacher
2003-2014

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2003

Current Service:

Mission to the Children
Sonora, Mexico
Staff Minister
2009-

Other degrees:

Staff Ministry Certification
Martin Luther College
2016

BS Forestry
Michigan Technological
University
1976

Master of Science in Education

The Master of Science in Education program has the goal of contributing to the professional growth of teachers and encouraging them to be reflective, competent, and dedicated educators of children in a Christian setting.

The Master of Science in Education degree from Martin Luther College is designed for persons who have an undergraduate degree in education from an accredited college or university. The master's program offers students a choice of four emphases: instruction, leadership, special education, and educational technology.



Samantha M. Beisch
Spirit Lake, IA
Special Education Emphasis



Rui H. Chen
Honolulu, HI
Leadership Emphasis



Holly J. Dannecker
Green Bay, WI
Leadership Emphasis



Chelsee B. Earley
Tipp City, OH
Instruction Emphasis
in absentia

Current Service:

*Round Lake-Brewster
Public School
Brewster, MN
Teacher
2019-*

Previous Service:

*Le Sueur-Henderson
Public School
Le Sueur, MN
Teacher
2018-2019*

*Cleveland Public School
Cleveland, MN
Teacher
2017-2018*

Other degrees:

BA Education
Bethany Lutheran College
2017

Current Service:

*Chinese Lutheran Church
of Honolulu
Honolulu, HI
Children's Ministry Director
2019-*

Other degrees:

BAS Management
Jiangnan University
2013

Current Service:

*St. Mark Lutheran School
Green Bay, WI
Special Education Director/Teacher
2020-*

Previous Service:

*St. John's Lutheran School
Sparta, WI
Teacher
2009-2020*

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2009

Previous Service:

*Mills Lawn School
Yellow Springs, OH
Teacher
2017-2022*

Other degrees:

BS Sociology
Appalachian State University
2009



Kyle G. Fax
Doral, FL
Instruction Emphasis
in absentia



Russell D. Klatt
Belleville, WI
Educational Technology Emphasis



Timothy J. McEachern
Milwaukee, WI
Instruction Emphasis
in absentia



Jill A. Stonecliffe
Davis, IL
Educational Technology Emphasis
in absentia

Current Service:

Divine Savior Academy-Doral
Doral, FL
Dean/Teacher
2019-

Previous Service:

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO
Instructor
2017-2019

Lord of Life Lutheran School
Thornton, CO
Teacher/Athletic Director
2014-2017

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2013

Current Service:

Our Redeemer Lutheran School
Madison, WI
Teacher/Athletic Director
1991-

Other degrees:

Educational Technology
Certificate
Martin Luther College
2017

BS Education
Dr. Martin Luther College
1991

Current Service:

Wisconsin Lutheran High School
Milwaukee, WI
Teacher
2017-

Previous Service:

Luther Preparatory School
Watertown, WI
Teacher
2006-2017

Southern Lutheran Academy
Mulberry, FL
Teacher/Dorm Supervisor
2005-2006

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2005

Current Service:

McHenry County College
Crystal Lake, IL
Instructor
2006-

Other degrees:

BS Nursing
Loyola University
1996



Jocelyn E. Vogel
Lincoln, NE
Special Education Emphasis

Current Service:

St. Mark Lutheran School
Lincoln, NE
Teacher
2016-

Previous Service:

Hope Christian School-Prima
Milwaukee, WI
Educational Assistant
2004-2005

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2003



Timothy V. Vogel
La Mesa, CA
Instruction Emphasis

Current Service:

*Shepherd of the Hills
Lutheran School*
La Mesa, CA
Principal/Teacher
2012-

Previous Service:

Good Shepherd Lutheran School
Cedar Rapids, IA
Principal/Teacher
2003-2012

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2003



Paul S. Waldschmidt
Hartford, WI
Educational Technology Emphasis

Current Service:

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Mequon, WI
Professor
2022-

Previous Service:

Peace Lutheran Church
Hartford, WI
Pastor
2012-2021

St. Mark Lutheran Church

Normal, IL
Pastor/ECM Director
1999-2012

Other degrees:

M.Div.
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
1999

BA
Northwestern College
1994



Michael C. Wisniewski
Hustisford, WI
Leadership Emphasis
in absentia



Anne M. Zeitler
Crystal, MN
Special Education Emphasis

Current Service:

Bethany Lutheran School
Hustisford, WI
Principal
2021-

Previous Service:

Trinity Lutheran School
Marshfield, WI
Principal
2016-2021

Abiding Word Lutheran School
Houston, TX
Teacher
2013-2016

St. John Lutheran School
Manitowoc, WI
Teacher
2005-2013

California Lutheran High School
Wildomar, CA
Teacher
2004-2005

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2003

Current Service:

Holy Trinity Lutheran School
New Hope, MN
Teacher
2018-

Other degrees:

WELS Teaching Ministry
Certification
Martin Luther College
2020

BA
University of Northwestern
2002

Master of Science in Educational Administration

The Master of Science in Educational Administration program provides a thorough background in school leadership and administration with a special focus on the spiritual and academic leadership needed to lead Christian schools.

The Master of Science in Educational Administration degree from Martin Luther College is designed for current or prospective school leaders with an undergraduate degree in education from an accredited college or university. Graduate students in this program follow either a principal, early childhood director, or technology director emphasis.



Alysa A. Balfour
Waukesha, WI
Principal Emphasis



Jarred D. Beduze
Fond du Lac, WI
Principal Emphasis
in absentia



Alec J. Bergmann
Missouri City, TX
Principal Emphasis
in absentia



Ryan W. Klatt
Stillwater, MN
Principal Emphasis

Current Service:

Mt. Calvary Lutheran School
Waukesha, WI
Teacher
2019-

Previous Service:

St. Luke Lutheran School
Oakfield, WI
Teacher
2017-2018

St. Peter's Lutheran School
Fond du Lac, WI
Teacher
2015-2016

Pilgrim Lutheran School
Minneapolis, MN
Teacher
2013-2013

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2013

Current Service:

Winnebago Lutheran Academy
Fond du Lac, WI
Vice Principal/Teacher
2022-

Previous Service:

Northland Lutheran High School
Kronenwetter, WI
Vice Principal/Teacher/Athletic
Director
2017-2022

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2017

Current Service:

Divine Savior Academy-Sienna
Missouri City, TX
Teacher
2018-

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2018

Current Service:

Salem Lutheran School
Stillwater, MN
Principal/Teacher
2018-

Previous Service:

First German Lutheran School
Manitowoc, WI
Principal/Teacher
2014-2018

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2014



Aaron J. Markgraf
Norfolk, NE
Principal Emphasis

Current Service:

St. Paul's Lutheran School
Norfolk, NE
Principal
2020-

Previous Service:

St. Paul Lutheran School
Beverly Hills, FL
Teacher
2017-2020

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2017



Peter A. Markgraf
New Ulm, MN
Principal Emphasis

Current Service:

St. Paul's Lutheran School
New Ulm, MN
Principal
2018-

Previous Service:

Good Shepherd Lutheran School
Sioux Falls, SD
Principal/Teacher
2001-2017

St. Matthew Lutheran School
Iron Ridge, WI
Teacher/Athletic Director
1995-2001

Christ the Lord Lutheran School
Clearwater, FL
Principal
1993-1995

St. Paul's Lutheran School
Fort Atkinson, WI
Teacher
1988-1993

Other degrees:

BS Education
Dr. Martin Luther College
1988



Nathan L. Scharf
New Berlin, WI
Principal Emphasis

Current Service:

Star of Bethlehem Lutheran School
New Berlin, WI
Principal
2022-

Previous Service:

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran School
Westminster, CO
Principal/Teacher
2018-2022

Immanuel Lutheran School
Greenville, WI
Vice Principal/Teacher
2015-2018

Other degrees:

BS Education
Martin Luther College
2015

Call Service

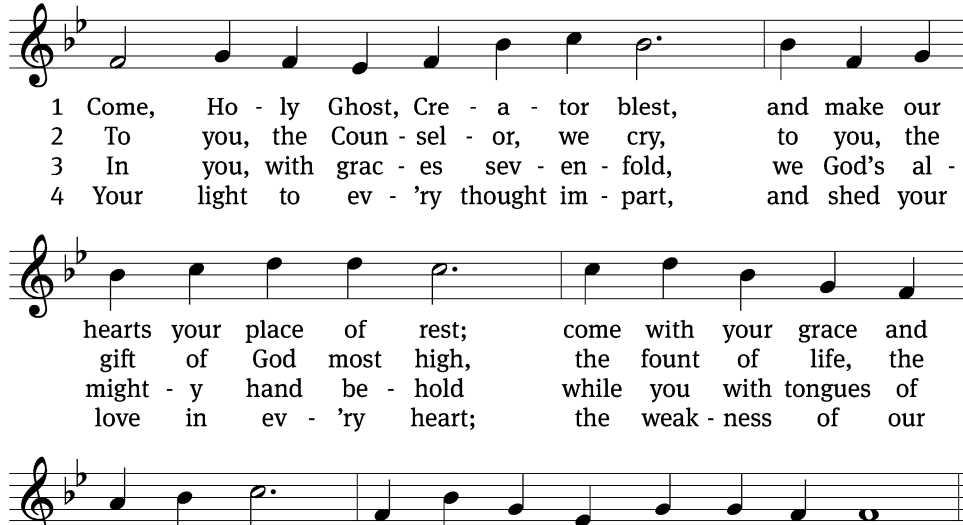
2:30 p.m.

Opening Hymn

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest (CW 586)

Arranged by Carl Schalk

The congregation sings stanzas 1, 3, 5 and 7. The choir sings stanzas 2, 4, and 6.



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest, and make our
2 To you, the Coun - sel - or, we cry, to you, the
3 In you, with grac - es sev - en - fold, we God's al -
4 Your light to ev - 'ry thought im - part, and shed your
hearts your place of rest; come with your grace and
gift of God most high, the fount of life, the
might - y hand be - hold while you with tongues of
love in ev - 'ry heart; the weak - ness of our
heav'n - ly aid, and fill the hearts which you have made.
fire of love, the soul's a - noint - ing from a - bove.
fire pro - claim to all the world his ho - ly name.
mor - tal state with death-less might in - vig - o - rate.

- 5 Drive far away our wily foe,
and your abiding peace bestow;
with you as our protecting guide,
no evil can with us abide.
- 6 Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and you, from both, as Three in One
that we your name may ever bless
and in our lives the truth confess.

Stand for the final stanza

- 7 Praise we the Father and the Son
and Holy Spirit, with them One,
and may the Son on us bestow
the gifts that from the Spirit flow!

Text: tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.; attr. Rhabanus Maurus, 776–856
Tune: Geistliche lieder auff's new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1533, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
Have mercy on us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us.

O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,
Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God.
Have mercy on us.

Govern and direct your holy Church, fill it with love and truth, and grant it that unity which is according to your will.
Hear us, good Lord.

Enlighten all ministers of the gospel with true knowledge and understanding of your Word, that by their teaching and living they may declare it clearly and show its truth.
Hear us, good Lord.

Encourage and prosper your servants who spread the gospel in all the world, and send out laborers into the harvest.
Hear us, good Lord.

Bless and keep your people, good Lord.
God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Be seated

Reading

Isaiah 6:1–8

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Lord Jesus, You Have Come (CW 897)

Introduction, Stanzas 1-3, and 5 by Paul Bunjes

Stanza 4 by Henry V. Gerike

The congregation sings stanzas 1, 3, and 5. The choir sings stanzas 2 and 4.



1 Lord Je - sus, you have come a teach - er sent from heav - en
2 O bless - ed min - is - try of rec - on - cil - i - a - tion,
3 Pre - serve this min - is - try while har - vest days are keep - ing;
4 The ser - vants you have called and to your Church are giv - ing
5 Bring those in - to your fold who still to you are stran - gers;



and by both word and deed God's truth to us have giv - en.
that shows the way to God and brings to us sal - va - tion!
and since the fields are ripe and hands are few for reap - ing,
pre - serve in doc - trine pure and ho - li - ness of liv - ing.
guard those who are with - in a - gainst of - fense and dan - gers.



You wise - ly have or - dained the ho - ly min - is - try
Lord, by your gos - pel pure you bless and keep your fold,
send work - ers forth, O Lord, the sheaves to gath - er in
Your Spir - it fill their hearts and charge their words with pow'r;
Press on - ward with your Word till pas - tor and his fold



that we, your flock, may know the truth that sets us free.
you call, en - light - en, keep, you com - fort and up - hold.
that not a soul be lost which you have come to win.
what they should bold - ly speak, O give them in that hour!
through faith in you, O Christ, your glo - ry shall be - hold.

Text: tr. composite; Eberhard L. Fischer, 1695-1773, abr.
Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Psalm 138

Choir

Lord God, You Have Called Your Servants

Text: Closing Prayer from the Vespers Service

Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Music: J. Aaron McDermid

Lord God, you have called your servants

to ventures of which we cannot see the ending;

by paths as yet untrod, through perils unknown.

Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go,

but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Reading of Assignments

Stand

Hymn

Holy God, We Praise Your Name (CW 953)

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of
5 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly

all, we bow be - fore you. All on
Spir - it, three we name you, though in

earth your scep - ter claim; all in heav'n a -
es - sence on - ly one, un - di - vid - ed

bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your vast do -
God we claim you, and, a - dor - ing, bend the

main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900, alt.; German version, Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774, abr.; Latin, c. 4th cent.
Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.



Closing Hymn

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage (CW 640)

God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -
ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its
teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The final note of the fifth staff is a whole note G, followed by a double bar line.

Text: tr. Ole G. Belsheim, alt.; Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872

Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924

Text and tune: Public domain

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Rich Gurgel
MLC President

Preacher

Rev. Jeff Schone
MLC Vice President for Student Life

Reading of Assignments

Rev. Mark Schroeder
WELS President

Organist

Kate Carlovsky
MLC Organ Instructor

College Choir

Prof. Adrian Smith
MLC Music Division

Trumpet

Ethan Mallow
Alicia Mengel
Josiah Winkel

Trombone

Benjamin Foster
Grace Seim

Timpani

Jacob Schwark

International Service

The following graduates have elected international service in various parts of the world.

Education

Alyssa Bergemann - Dominican Republic
Janessa Brock - Grenada (Friends Network)
Rachel Ihlenfeldt - Grenada (second year)
Emily Raymond - Dominican Republic (second year)

Staff Ministry

Ryan Kohl - Thailand (Friends Network)

Pre-Seminary

David Freund - Ecuador (Academia Cristo, second year)

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Artwork by Ian M. Welch. Copyright 2013 Ian M. Welch. All Rights Reserved. Paramentics.com

Almighty God, who by your Son, Jesus Christ, commanded your church to go into all the world to preach the gospel to all creation: grant an eagerness to remain faithful to and with your Word to all whom you call into full time service to your flock. Fill all your children with a burning desire to make your way known upon the earth, your saving truth among all nations. Teach all your children to imitate their Savior and to look with patient compassion on the multitudes who still are scattered as sheep without a shepherd. O heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, hear our prayers for workers to be sent into your harvest field. Equip all those you give to serve in public ministry with whatever they need to serve you wherever you call them. Overcome in them every inclination to timidity and fill them with a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline. Enable them to bear the cross for your name's sake with joy and without fear or complaint. May your Holy Spirit prosper their work, so that both by teaching and life, they display the beauty of your saving truth before all nations. All this we ask, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

