

COMMENCEMENT SERVICE CALL SERVICE



MISSION OF MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

The mission of Martin Luther College is to train men and women to meet the public ministry needs of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and to proclaim the Word of God faithfully and in accord with the Lutheran Confessions in the Book of Concord. To fulfill this mission, Martin Luther College carries out all instruction and programs of student life according to the gospel as revealed in the inspired and inerrant Word of God.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the college desires

- To deepen in the student saving faith in the forgiving grace of Jesus Christ;
- To strengthen the student in a consecrated spirit of love for God and his Word;
- To foster in the student a servant's heart for Christ-like service in the church, community, and world;
- To educate the student for faithful, capable, and intelligent citizenship in today's world;
- To assist the student in acquiring the knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed for service in the church and for lifelong learning;
- To help the student to develop the spiritual, emotional, and physical resiliency that will assist them to persevere in service under the cross; and
- To provide for the student an affordable college experience on a beautiful and attractive campus.

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 public ministry in the church, 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 professional and continuing education that meet the ministerial needs of the WELS.

AS YOU SENT ME INTO THE WORLD, I HAVE SENT THEM INTO THE WORLD. JOHN 17:18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In last Sunday's gospel, we heard Jesus pray to his Father the words printed above.

In that prayer, spoken in the upper room the night he was betrayed, Jesus joyously (!) anticipates what would be accomplished on the cross the next day. The "joy set before him" (Heb 12:2) was to bring his Father glory by winning eternal life for all who would believe in him.

And then Jesus turns his prayer's attention to those gathered around him in that room. He admits what a dangerous place this world is for those who, through faith, no longer truly belong to this world. But this dangerous reality does *not* lead him to ask his Father to take them out of this world. Instead, he asks his Father to protect them by the power of his name, since Jesus would use them to carry his victory to that world. AS YOU SENT ME INTO THE WORLD, I HAVE SENT THEM INTO THE WORLD.

As Jesus notes just a few verses later, his prayer was not for those first disciples alone, but "for those who will believe in me through their message" (Jn 17:20). On that night he was betrayed, he prayed for each one of us who, down through the centuries, would believe in him. He doesn't pray that we be instantly ripped out of this world. Instead, he sends us out into that world, protected by his name, to be his messengers. AS YOU SENT ME INTO THE WORLD, I HAVE SENT THEM INTO THE WORLD.

So Jesus prays for every believer here. Yet his prayer has a special application for those who graduate today and hear their names connected to a place of ministry, and for those who move on to the seminary with another call day approaching faster than they can imagine.

These graduates are an answer to his prayer in two special ways, As they serve God in public ministry, they are protected by his gracious and powerful name, and they are his representatives, his messengers of the gospel. What a privilege!

Watch and listen in humble awe today. Before your eyes and in your ears, the Father is continuing to answer his Son's prayer! AS YOU SENT ME INTO THE WORLD, I HAVE SENT THEM INTO THE WORLD.

Rich Gurgel

President, Martin Luther College

Hand Mand

THE REGALIA

The academic apparel worn by faculty and graduates has its origins in the monastic tradition of the Middle Ages. In Christian freedom we can choose to follow such academic traditions or not. In this graduation service, our undergraduate faculty has chosen to wear normal attire to emphasize that we train students not just for academic achievement, but for ministry. Our graduate faculty has chosen to wear formal regalia to emphasize lifelong learning pursued in service to God and for the glory of God.

The various colors of apparel (baccalaureate tassels and master's hoods) indicate the degree-granting institution and the particular areas of study.

• Martin Luther College: red and black

• Education: light blue

• Theology: red

Finally, a small percentage of our students are from foreign countries. They wear stoles with the colors and insignia of their homelands.

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UNDERGRADUATE FACULTY

Peter A. Baganz Daniel N. Balge Jacob C. Behnken Darrell T. Berg

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James C. Danell Jr. Isaiah W. Degner Gregory T. Diersen Heath D. Dobberpuhl

Rebecca L. Doering Aaron I. Dolan Brian L. Dose Rachel M. Feld Daniel J. Fenske Joel D. Fredrich

Rachel R. Fredrich Daniel P. Gawrisch

Kelli L. Green Paul J. Grubbs

Timothy D. Grundmeier

Richard L. Gurgel Kathryn S. Gut

Alyssa M. Heckendorf

Brian K. Hennig Grace A. Hennig Craig R. Hirschmann Greg A. Holzhueter

Paul D. Huebner Samuel A. Hunter Robert F. Klindworth

Theodore A. Klug Paul E. Koelpin

Jennifer L. Krause Jonathan A. Laabs

Martin P. LaGrow Nichole A. LaGrow

Jennifer A. Mehlberg

John E. Meyer Kari A. Muente

Thomas P. Nass Breanna L. Olson

Lawrence O. Olson

Mark A. Paustian

Adam D. Pavelchik

Matthew S. Pearson William A. Pekrul

Aaron T. Robinson Ionathan A. Roux

Martín Santos

Jonathan M. Schaefer

David G. Scharf Hannah H. Scharf

Nicolas C. Schmoller

Scott D. Schmudlach Jeffrey L. Schone

Adrian R. Smith Ross A. Stellies

Mark W. Tacke

Joel W. Thomford

Luke G. Thompson

Alan E. Uher Lori L. Unke Duane J. Vance

Daniel W. Waldschmidt

Keith C. Wessel Cynthia E. Whaley Jeffery P. Wiechman Miles B. Wurster Rachel K. Youngblom

Tyson J. Zarnstorff

TUTOR

Aaron T. Bush Nathaniel D. Savage

GRADUATE FACULTY

Richard E. Bakken Michael J. Berg John C. Boeder James D. Carlovsky Kenneth A. Cherney Jr. Benjamin P. Clemons Carolyn M. DeLorme

Kelli L. Green

Timothy D. Grundmeier James R. Grunwald

Darvl B. Hanneman

Lowell E. Holtz Philip J. Huebner

Daniel W. Johnson Robert F. Klindworth

John D. Kolander

Martin P. LaGrow

Jeffrey C. Lemke Alanna M. Lienig

Jason H. Lowrey

Robert L. Martens

Joshua T. Mears John E. Meyer

Kari A. Muente

Mark W. Murphy Lawrence O. Olson

Mark A. Paustian

Carrie F. Pfeifer

Gene R. Pfeifer Timothy M. Plath

Joel L. Pless

Gail M. Potratz

Rvan J. Rathie

Kristina E. Rouech

Ionathan A. Roux Todd A. Russ

Julie A. Sallquist

Jonathan M. Schaefer Jason E. Schmidt

John D. Schuetze

Michael K. Smith

Martin A. Spriggs

Paul S. Steinberg

Bill J. Tackmier

Paul O. Wendland

Keith C. Wessel

Cvnthia E. Whalev Jeffery P. Wiechman

Rachel K. Youngblom

ADJUNCT

Warren B. Backer

Bethel A. Balge

Paul A. Bases

Barb Becker

Thomas J. Bierer Kathryn E. Carlovsky

William L. Frame

Kaitlin A. Gawrisch

Jennifer E. Haugen

Brian P. Hopp

Thomas N. Hunter

Megan R. Kassuelke

JoElyn K. Krohn

Erin R. Laabs

Judith L. Martens

Ryan D. Rader

Julianne B. Trebelhorn

David J. Urness

Elisabeth J. Urtel

Marianne E. Vogel

Mark S. Wamma Haley G. Wels

Elizabeth I. Wiechman

Kathryn M. Wurster

As the procession begins, stand and face the cross at the back of the gymnasium. Follow its path to the chancel, where it serves as the center and focus of Christian worship.

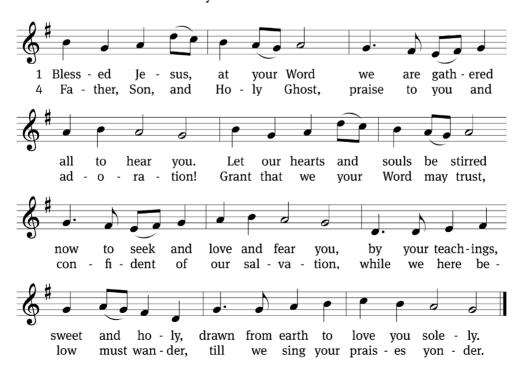
PROCESSIONAL

INVOCATION

- M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

- M: How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty.
- C: My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD.
- M: Blessed are those who dwell in your house.
- C: They are ever praising you.
- M: Better is one day in your courts
- C: Than a thousand elsewhere.
- M: For the LORD God is a sun and shield.
- C: The LORD bestows favor and honor.
- M: LORD Almighty,
- C: Blessed is the one who trusts in you.



M: Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on our graduates. As they depart from this place, cause them to continue to grow in faith, love, and joy. In all their vocations in life, instill in them a lifelong desire to hear and tell the message of your grace in Christ. Keep them ever faithful to you so that, through their witness, many more may sing your praises in eternity, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

READING

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is Godbreathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

O WORD OF GOD

Arranged by Craig Courtney

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky, we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page, a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The Church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine, and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine. It is the sacred vessel where gems of truth are stored; it is the heaven-drawn picture of Christ, the living Word.

Piano: Hope Sulzle | Trumpet: Josiah Smith

The Scripture is a banner, before God's host unfurled; it is a shining beacon above the darkening world. It is the chart and compass that o'er life's surging tide, mid mists and rocks and quicksands to you, O Christ, will guide.

O make your Church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold to bear before the nations your true light, as of old.
O teach your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face. Amen.

SERMON

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

YOU ARE ... CLAY JARS ... TREASURE-FILLED ... INDESTRUCTIBLE

HYMN

CATCH THE VISION! SHARE THE GLORY!

Jaroslav J. Vajda Setting by Carl Schalk



PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Out of respect for each graduate, please reserve applause for the Presentation of the Class of 2024, which occurs after the blessing and announcements.

Stand

PRAYER

- M: 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.
- C: Above all, we thank you for our Savior Jesus and the forgiveness he has won for us.
- M: 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.
- C: Lord, hear our prayer.
- M: Bless those who will continue their preparation for pastoral ministry at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary with patience and resolve.
- C: Lord, hear our prayer.
- M: Bless those who will serve you as lay members in their congregations or in international fields of service.
- C: Lord, hear our prayer.
- M: 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

C: 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

- M: 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.
- C: Amen.

Be seated

CW 870:1,4



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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITION OF THOSE CONCLUDING SERVICE

Lawrence Czer (called home to heaven)
Alyssa Heckendorf (accepting a call)
Brian Hennig (accepted a call)
Grace Hennig (retiring June 2024)
Robert Klindworth (retiring June 2024)

Erin Laabs (spouse accepted a position) Jonathan Laabs (peaceful release) Mya Peshon (peaceful release) Lori Unke (retiring June 2024)

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 Academic Affairs

Organist Dr. Jon Roux | MLC Education Division
Graduation Choir Prof. Adrian Smith | MLC Music Division
Wind Symphony Dr. Miles Wurster | MLC Music Division
Graduation Marshal Michelle Gartner | MLC Event Coordinator

Acknowledgments

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BACHELOR OF ARTS

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES



Caleb S. Arndt Beaver Dam WI



Joshua R. Baerman Spokane WA



Joshua D. Bannick Saginaw MI



Cody J. Bone Carthage NY



Cole A. Broekhuizen Birch Run MI



Cole A. Burow Beloit WI



Daniel M. Buth Newnan GA



James W. Carter IV Milwaukee WI



Ethan J. Cloute Watertown WI



Noah R. Cook West Salem WI



Jared M. Dobberstein Woodville WI



Owen C. Eubank Ann Arbor MI



Paul R. Frick Waukesha WI



Grant C. Gawrisch Saint Paul MN



Caleb S. Heckendorf Reno NV



John E. Hemmelman Winona MN



Nathanael J. Hintze New Berlin WI



Aaron J. Jobs Markesan WI



SungGon Kim Jeju, South Korea



Christian D. Koelpin Bullard TX



Josiah L. Koelpin Dallas TX



Liam C. Kopp Appleton WI



Aidan A. Lewis Johns Creek GA



Jackson J. Lindemann Egg Harbor WI



Caleb C. Little Cottage Grove MN



Seth M. Marquardt Saint Paul MN



Reagan T. Moore Flushing MI



Max D. Nordlie Lake Orion MI



Carson T. Oestreich Hadar NE



Nathan M. Pausma Fox Lake WI

BACHELOR OF ARTS

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES cont.



Maxwell H. Plocher Saint Joseph MI



Aric R. Reim Brookfield WI



Robert G. Reinke Waukesha WI



David P. Rutschow Port Charlotte FL



Isaias F. Santos Fort Washington MD



Joel T. Sauer Sturgeon Bay WI



Zach H. Scheuerlein Thiensville WI



Elijah D. Schulz Boynton Beach FL



Peter D. Smith New Ulm MN



Silas J. Steinbrenner Hartford WI



Lucas J. Stiles De Pere WI



Camden J. Sulzle Redwood Falls MN



Gustav K. Wenz Shepherd MT



Yu Geng Yang Beijing, China



Michael A. Zimpelmann Manitowoc WI

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Hannah M. Bartmann Appleton WI



Anna G. Bilitz Madison WI



Natasha V. Cabeza Velasquez Milwaukee WI



Hannah D. Esmay Temple TX



Makayla G. Kaiser Cottage Grove MN



Natalie E. Mapes Saginaw MI



Megan R. Muske Appleton WI



Taylor A. Natalie Federal Way WA



Grace E. Nelson Green Bay WI



Esther R. Robinson New Ulm MN



Sadie A. Schultz Rhinelander WI



Hannah E. Sieh Wasilla AK



Katie L. Tauscher West Salem WI



Alyssa P. Walther Watertown WI

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION



Madeline L. Abel Fort Atkinson WI



Michaela A. Albrecht Grafton WI



Eric M. Bartsch Sussex WI



Margaret E. Beam Palm Coast FL



Matthew J. Beussman Springfield MN



Paige A. Biesterfeld Lowell IN



Serina M. Blase Watertown WI



Aaron J. Bode Phoenix AZ



Anna E. Borgwardt Fond du Lac WI



Naomi N. Bridgemen Eau Claire WI



Grace E. Brown Conroe TX



Nathaniel P. Brown Benton Harbor MI



Michaela I. Bubolz Reedsville WI



Emily F. Ciha Manitowoc WI



Ethan C. Coffee Van Nuys CA



Grace M. Deck Hotchkiss CO



Matthew J. Emmendorfer Chesaning MI



Allonna M. Fick Appleton WI



Alyson N. Fluegge Johnson Creek WI



Brooke A. Flunker Winneconne WI



Hannah L. Foley Westland MI



Brian D. Friesenegger Elizabeth CO



Charis F. Glende Fayetteville NC



Tristen P. Goff Cleburne TX



Jewel R. Heiting Kaukauna WI



Stephanie G. Hintz Franklin TN



Megan K. Kieselhorst DeForest WI



Leah G. Klammer Fall Creek WI



Sarah E. Kramer Redwood Falls MN



Lydia J. Krenke Las Vegas NV

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION cont.



Bryce T. Marohn Eau Claire WI



Alyssa L. Nash Lewiston MN



Tatiana M. Parker Saint James MN



Madelyn E. Plitzuweit Oconomowoc WI



Allyana A. Rautenberg Peridot AZ



Amanda S. Rehberger Appleton WI



Kaitlyn L. Rodmyre Federal Way WA



Erica S. Schlomer Cincinnati OH



Hannah G. Schroeder Sturgeon Bay WI



Nicholas P. Schroeder Carlsbad CA



Katlyn R. Schwab Kawkawlin MI



Isaiah D. Terry Ixonia WI



Claire E. Tomhave Lake Mills WI



Anna J. Treder Wildomar CA



Madeline E. Walz Jackson WI



Amber M. Wenman Burlington WI

MIDDLE and SECONDARY EDUCATION



Zachary L. Cole Show Low AZ Physics



William J. Costin Lincoln NE Social Studies



Kincaid I. Diersen New Ulm MN Chemistry/Life Science



Diana A. Escalona Miami FL Communication Arts & Literature in absentia



Andrew P. Grady Ross OH Social Studies



Emma I. Holzen Clayton NC Social Studies



Jayden S. Koehler Neenah WI Life Science/ Physical Education (K-12)



Caleb J. Lash Racine WI Mathematics/Physics



Jacob D. Leyrer Wauwatosa WI Mathematics



Ethan D. Mallow Menomonee Falls WI Physics



Matthew T. Rieger New Ulm MN Mathematics



Nathaniel O. Ruediger Clio MI Life Science



Renée N. Ruediger Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Communication Arts & Literature



Jake L. Vilhauer Arvada CO Social Studies



Annaliese H. Wenz Shepherd MT Mathematics



Joshua D. Zander Manitowoc WI Social Studies

K-12 EDUCATION



Rebekah L. Cole Milwaukee WI Spanish



Mason J. Cox New Ulm MN Physical Education



Kiley S. Gregorius West Bend WI Spanish



Jordyn A. Heckendorf Kewaskum WI Physical Education



Spencer D. Lilienthal Plato MN Physical Education



Christopher R. Robbert Maple Plain MN Special Education

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE in EDUCATION

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION + EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Malakai I. Dunn Thornton CO



Ruth I. Gehring Menomonie WI

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION + SECONDARY EDUCATION



Samantha J. Bjerke Winona MN Vocal Music



Katherine E. Boehlke Eagan MN Life Science



Jenna R. Boggs Watertown WI Social Studies



Matthias P. J. Borgwardt New Ulm MN Social Studies



McKenzey L. Crowley Rapid City SD Physical Education



MacKenzie A. Holzbauer Fond du Lac WI Physical Education



Tyler J. Holzhueter Waterloo WI Physical Education



Mikayla A. Kiedrowski Milwaukee WI Spanish



Olivia R. Krueger Monroe MI Communication Arts & Literature



Marissa R. Marten Sheboygan WI Mathematics



Alicia M. Mengel Waukesha WI Instrumental Music



Abby E. Micheel Eau Claire WI Special Education



Leah J. Nushart Maple Grove WI Life Science



Matthew C. Speidel Apple Valley MN Social Studies



Kristin J. Uher New Ulm MN Life Science



Noah E. Ungemach Manitowoc WI Vocal Music

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION + STAFF MINISTRY



Katherine E. Kopplin Rowlett TX

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

STAFF MINISTRY



Alexis M. Waack Watertown WI



Josiah R. Wordell Mequon WI

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES



Rebecca A. Bieberitz Eau Claire WI



Chloe S. Grunewald Fond du Lac WI



Sylvia L. Lauth Oconto WI



Shawn E. Zumbach Black River Falls WI

STAFF MINISTRY CERTIFICATION



Benjamin W. Haferman Milwaukee WI

COMPLETING ADDITIONAL DEGREE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE in EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Laurel J. Davis Mankato MN

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE in EDUCATION

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Nathan R. Curtis Columbus OH

COMPLETING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

CHAPLAIN

James D. Nelson Pickwick MN

EVANGELISM

John J. Deschane Crivitz WI

Judith L. Martens New Ulm MN

Rebekah A. Mueller Doral FL

Andrew T. Pedde Irmo SC MENTORING & COACHING

Lisa M. Baehman Neenah WI

George D. Kellermann Midland MI

Michael L. Koestler Mount Pleasant WI

Jessica A. Wolfe Goodhue MN MINISTRY CERTIFICATION for PARISH STAFF MINISTRY

> Kevin P. Becker Milwaukee WI

John K. Dale Columbia TN

Arik J. McGathey Firestone CO

TEACHING ONLINE

Michael J. Otterstatter Summerville SC

MASTER OF ARTS

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES



Jarred L. Burns Indianapolis IN Theological Studies in absentia

CURRENT SERVICE:

St. Paul Lutheran Church Indianapolis IN

OTHER DEGREES:

MS Legal Studies California University of Pennsylvania 2006

BA Criminal Justice Indiana University 2005



Jonathan M. Favorite Appleton WI Theological Studies

CURRENT SERVICE:

St. Peter Lutheran Church -North Campus Appleton WI

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2004



MASTER OF SCIENCE

EDUCATION



Zachary D. Bloomquist Simpsonville SC Leadership Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

Abiding Peace Academy Simpsonville SC

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2021



Todd W. Brassow Redwood Falls MN Leadership Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

St. John Lutheran School Redwood Falls MN

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2017



Elizabeth M. Broring Green Bay WI Special Education Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

St. Paul Lutheran School Green Bay WI

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2018



Lisa M. Eriksen Morgan MN Special Education Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

St. John Lutheran School Redwood Falls MN

OTHER DEGREES:

BA Elementary Education Augustana University 1998



Abigail J. Galecki Columbus OH Instruction Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

St. Paul Lutheran School Columbus OH

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2015



Jeanette R. Lapp Lawrenceville GA Instruction Emphasis in absentia

CURRENT SERVICE:

Winn Holt Elementary School Lawrenceville GA

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 1997

MASTER OF SCIENCE EDUCATION cont.



Stephanie E. Larson Mobridge SD Special Education **Emphasis** in absentia

CURRENT SERVICE:

Zion Lutheran Preschool Mobridge SD

OTHER DEGREES: **BS** Education Martin Luther College 2011



Daniel T. Roemhildt Tampa FL Instruction Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

Northdale Christian Academy Tampa FL

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2016



Brittany M. Steinfeldt Grove City OH Instruction Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

St. Paul Lutheran School Grove City OH

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2019



Nicole C. Wagner Frederick CO Instruction Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

Silver Hills Middle School Westminster CO

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2018



Tassia-Channel Wolf St. George's, Grenada Instruction Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

Grace Lutheran School St. George's, Grenada

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2018



Mei Zhang Chiangmai, Thailand Instruction Emphasis

OTHER DEGREES:

BA English China University of Geosciences 2010



Eden Prairie MN Educational Technology **Emphasis**

CURRENT SERVICE:

Living Hope Lutheran School Shakopee MN

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Dr. Martin Luther College 1990



MASTER OF SCIENCE

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION



Tarah J. Beduze Fond du Lac WI Early Childhood Director Emphasis in absentia

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2015



Adam J. Bilitz Lansing MI Principal Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

Emanuel First Lutheran School Lansing MI

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2020



Paul H. Braun West Bend WI Principal Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

Good Shepherd Lutheran School West Bend WI

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2016



Brian K. Haack Fond du Lac WI Principal Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

Faith Lutheran School Fond du Lac WI

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 1999



Michael E. Paulsen South Jordan UT Principal Emphasis in absentia

CURRENT SERVICE:

Prince of Peace Lutheran School Taylorsville UT

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2016



Donovan J. Waege Weyauwega WI Technology Director Emphasis

CURRENT SERVICE:

St. Peter Lutheran School Weyauwega WI

OTHER DEGREES:

BS Education Martin Luther College 2021

MASTER OF SCIENCE

SPECIAL EDUCATION



Kortney M. Behnke Fond du Lac WI Special Education

CURRENT SERVICE:

Winnebago Lutheran Academy Fond du Lac WI

OTHER DEGREES:

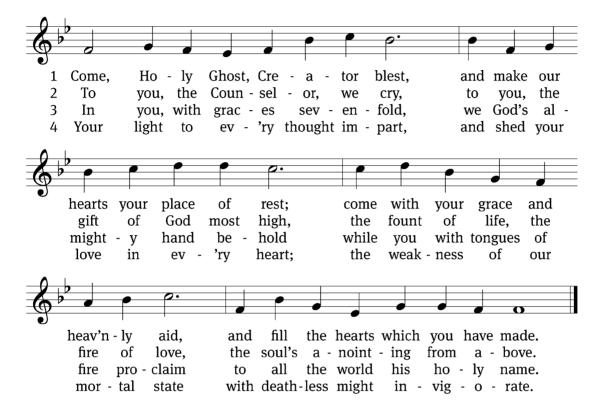
BS Education Martin Luther College 2022



OPENING HYMN

COME, HOLY GHOST, CREATOR BLEST

CW 586



- 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

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!

- M: O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
- C: Have mercy on us.
- M: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
- C: Have mercy on us.
- M: O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,
- C: Have mercy on us.
- M: Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God,
- C: Have mercy on us.
- M: Govern and direct your holy Church, fill it with love and truth, and grant it that unity which is according to your will.
- C: Hear us, good Lord.
- M: 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.
- C: Hear us, good Lord.
- M: Encourage and prosper your servants who spread the gospel in all the world, and send out laborers into the harvest.
- C: Hear us, good Lord.
- M: Bless and keep your people, good Lord.
- C: God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Be seated

READING

EPHESIANS 4:1-13

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people."

(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

- M: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

CHRIST CALLS US FORTH

Words and Music by K. Lee Scott



Organ: Benjamin Foster | Trumpet: Jason Horn, Josiah Smith Trombone: Grace Seim, Bethany Valleau | Timpani: Robert Reinke

SERMON ZECHARIAH 10

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

OPTING FOR INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

We praise God also for the following graduates who have elected international service in various parts of the world:

EDUCATION

Rebekah Cole – Dominican Republic

Zachary Cole – Dominican Republic

Lydia Krenke – Dominican Republic

Abby Micheel – Japan (Friends Network)

HYMN

SEND, O LORD, YOUR HOLY SPIRIT

CW 898



Text: tr. Frederick W. Herzberger, 1859–1930, alt.; Lieder-Perlen, St. Louis, 1905 Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

BLESSING

M: 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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

GOD'S WORD IS OUR GREAT HERITAGE

CW 640



Text: tr. Ole G. Belsheim, alt.; Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872 Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924 Text and tune: Public domain

Be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Rev. Jacob Behnken | MLC Dean of Chapel
College Choir Prof. Adrian Smith | MLC Music Division

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We praise God for the individuals, families, churches, and organizations that have established named scholarships to assist MLC students.

Kenneth & Mary Abraham Scholarship

Martin Albrecht Music Scholarship Albrechts of Eschenau Memorial Fund

Katherine (Ewald) Alderman Memorial Scholarship

All Children Can Learn Scholarship

Auxiliary Scholarship

Barnabas Fund

Gerhard Bauer Scholarship

Isaac J. Baumann Memorial Scholarship

George & Mildred Benedict Endowment

Beyer Memorial Scholarship

Hugo & Janet Bilitz Scholarship

Bingenheimer Music Scholarship

Birkholz & Gray Family Scholarship

Elfred Bloedel Memorial Organ Scholarship

Boehling Scholarship

Boschee Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Roy & Ruth Breiling Endowed Organ Scholarship

Clifford R. Brooks Family Scholarship

Edwin & Malinda Buss Memorial Fund

By Grace Scholarship

Carow MLC Preseminary Scholarship

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Larry Czer English Scholarship

Dakota-Montana District Scholarship

Earl & Eileen Defferding Scholarship

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DMLHS Class of 1959 Scholarship

Dusseau Family Urban Teaching & Leadership Scholarship

Melvin & Ina Mae Dux Scholarship

Emanuel-New London 125th Anniversary Fund

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R. & F. Ewings Memorial Scholarship

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Gaertner/Harting Scholarship

Silas Lawrence Gerling Scholarship

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Judy Hamby Scholarship

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Pastor William K. Hein Chaplaincy Endowment

Holzhueter Family Scholarship

Chris Horn Scholarship

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James K. Huhn Memorial Science Scholarship

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Kastens Staff Ministry Scholarship

E. C. Kiessling Scholarship

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Don & Verona Krueger Scholarship

Zachary Krzmarzick Music Scholarship

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Dr. Ruth Preston Lehmann Scholarship

Winfred P. Lehmann Language Scholarship

Lemke Scholarship

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Ronald & Anna Lind Scholarship

Luehrs Scholarship

Glenn & Rebecca Lussky Scholarship

MLC Alumni Association Endowment

Melacha Scholarship

Alan & Muriel Meyer Endowment

Micheel Scholarship

Jack N. Minch Endowed & Annual Scholarships

Minnesota District Scholarship

Zachary Moyle Scholarship

Northwestern College Alumni Society Presidents Grants

- Pres. John A. Braun Grant for English
- Pres. John A. Braun Grant for Leadership
- Pres. August F. Ernst Grant for Confessional Languages: German
- Pres. August F. Ernst Grant for Confessional Languages: Latin
- Pres. August F. Ernst Grant for Confessional Languages: German & Latin
- Pres. E.E. Kowalke Grant for Biblical Languages: Hebrew
- Pres. E.E. Kowalke Grant for Biblical Languages: Greek
- Pres. Adam Martin Grant for Living Languages
- Pres. Carleton Toppe Grant for GPA and Religion
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Ruth Odegard Endowment

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Edward & Rhoda Otterstatter Scholarship

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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 this day—or in the days ahead—call into full-time service to your flock. Fill them with a burning desire to make your way known upon the earth, your saving truth among all nations. 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 in both teaching and life, they display the beauty of your saving truth before all nations.

And, heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, as your Son urged us to pray, hear our prayers for even more workers like these to be sent into your harvest field. Amen.



