

WELS NATIONAL HANDBELL FESTIVAL

CHRIST
FOR US

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

APRIL 10-12
2 0 2 6

PERFORMANCE APRIL 12, 2:00 PM
MLC GYMNASIUM



Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Living Savior,

As your WELS College of Ministry, Martin Luther College is honored to welcome you to campus for the 2026 WELS National Handbell Festival!

The Easter season is a perfect time for this gathering. You are working together to ring out music that honors your risen Savior and helps us ponder the wonder of his forgiving grace. Your music reflects the joyful reality of this Sunday's reading: In his great mercy, our heavenly Father "has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

While you're here, please enjoy getting to know MLC's campus. After all, this campus belongs to all of us! MLC's sole purpose is to provide staff ministers, teachers, and pastors to share that "living hope" in WELS schools and congregations.

The MLC students you see walking on campus are being ***Knighthed for Ministry***. Very soon they may be serving as a teacher for your children or grandchildren, or helping as a staff minister to lead the youth and family ministry of your congregation, or, after more training at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, serving as a pastor to proclaim the Easter gospel to your congregation!

And, since the gospel ministry is bigger than our own individual congregations and schools, we can thank God together that some of these students will speak the Easter gospel in places where you and I never could.

Finally, please pray. Pray for God's blessings on our students' preparation for ministry. Pray also that God might inspire many more of the young—and not so young—in our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to consider serving in gospel ministry—and, if you have opportunity, encourage someone in your family or church family to do just that!

Thank you for the glorious music you will ring out this weekend! And thank you for being ***YouKnighthed*** with us in this mission to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

In Him,



Rich Gurgel
President, Martin Luther College



CHRIST FOR US

How Deep the Father's Love for Us
MASS

Stuart Townend
Arranged by Peggy Bettcher

Welcome

Martin Luther College President Rich Gurgel

God's Love Rings Out
EXALTATE

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
Arranged by Sondra Tucker

Prelude on Holy Manna
LAUDATE

Arranged by Cathy Marker

Ah, Holy Jesus
EXALTATE

HERZLIEBSTER JESU
Johann Crüger
Arranged by Jason Krug

CHRIST THROUGH US

Go Tell It on the Mountain
LAUDATE

Arranged by Susan Geschke

Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
MASS

Based on AUF, AUF, MEIN HERZ
Johann Crüger
Arranged by John A. Behnke

Cantad al Señor (O Sing to the Lord)
EXALTATE

Brazilian folk melody
Arranged by Mitchell Eithun

God Be with You till We Meet Again
MASS

GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer
RANDOLPH, Ralph Vaughan Williams
Arranged by Cathy Moglebust

Tell the Story
LAUDATE

Incorporates *I Love to Tell the Story* and *How Firm a Foundation*
Arranged by Karissa Dennis

Offering

A freewill offering will be collected at this time to help defray the expenses of the festival.

CHRIST WITH US

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
MASS

Music by Thomas A. Dorsey
Handbell Setting by Joel Raney

Joy to the World
EXALTATE

ANTIOCH
G.F. Handel
Arranged by Cathy Moglebust

Women sing stanza 2; Men sing stanza 3



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Be Thou My Vision
MASS

SLANE
Irish folk tune
Arranged by Sandra Eithun

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
LAUDATE

CONVERSE
Charles C. Converse
Arranged by Susan E. Geschke

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
MASS

Arranged by Kenneth T. Kosche
and John A. Behnke

Congregation sings stanzas 1, 4; Choir sings stanzas 2, 3



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I



blood and right - eous - ness; I dare to make no
his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; when ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in him be found, clothed in his right - eous -



oth - er claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore his throne.



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

DIRECTORS

MASS CHOIR

Prof. Craig Hirschmann

LAUDATE CHOIR

Ryan Stangl

EXALTATE CHOIR

Debi Traeder

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Piano | Daniel Hoogervorst

Organ | Luke Zondervan

Trumpet 1 | Jason Horn

Trumpet 2 | Eric Smith

Trombone 1 | Reese Collins

Trombone 2 | Maria Vik

Tuba | Henry Pape

Timpani and congas | Caleb Krahn

Shaker | Trent Klas

Castanets | Noah Nolte

Tambourine | Chris Williams

MUSIC SELECTION COMMITTEE

Emma Curtis

Mary Huismann

Denice Turpin

Debi Traeder

WELS HANDBELL FESTIVALS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Debi Traeder | WELS Handbell Festivals Chair

Kristi Meyer | Treasurer

Kristi Perry | Northeastern Region Representative

Marlene Randazzo | Southeastern Region Representative

Dan Stiller | Western Region Representative

PARTICIPATING HANDBELL CHOIRS

CONGREGATION/SCHOOL	LOCATION	DIRECTOR
Christ Lutheran Church	Zumbrota MN	Dan Stiller
Faith Lutheran Church	River Falls WI	Eileen Menke
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Burnsville MN	Mary Huismann
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	West Bend WI	Eileen Schmiege
Grace Lutheran Church	St. Joseph MI	Cheryl Skorupa
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Medford WI	Cheryl Iwinski
Lincoln Heights Lutheran Church	Des Moines IA	Sarah Riese
Luther Preparatory School	Watertown WI	Ryan Stangl
Martin Luther College	New Ulm MN	Craig Hirschmann
Orphan Choir	Madison WI	Caitlin Ristow
Peace Lutheran Church	Hartford WI	Marlene Randazzo
Praise Ringers	Lino Lakes MN	Deb Maxson/Sarah Gierach
Salem Lutheran Church	Stillwater MN	Jessica Wolf
St. John's Lutheran Church	Lewiston MN	Mandy Rupprecht
St. John's Lutheran Church	Neilsville WI	Donna Sternitzky
St. John's Lutheran Church	Goodhue MN	
Saint Mark Lutheran Church	Mankato MN	Zachary Scharlemann
St. Paul's Lutheran Church	Howards Grove WI	Jill Grzonka
St. Paul's Lutheran Church	Muskego WI	Gretchen Italiano
St. Paul's Lutheran Church	New Ulm MN	Alexa Koester
St. Peter Lutheran Church	Schofield WI	Debi Traeder
Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church	New Berlin WI	Janeen Roska
Trinity Lutheran Church	Brillion WI	Marcia Wendt
Trinity Lutheran Church	Crete IL	Jodie Lodle
Trinity Lutheran Church	Kaukauna WI	Emma Curtis
Trinity Lutheran Church	Waukesha WI	Denice Turpin
Wisconsin Lutheran High School	Milwaukee WI	Alicia Lash
Zion Lutheran Church	Winthrop MN	Mark Jaeger

SPECIAL THANKS

Beth Scharf & MLC Events Team
Benjamin Matzke & AVCO | Audio Visual Services
MLC Print Services | Print Material
Katherine Schmoller | Graphic Design
Jacob Behnken | Dean of Chapel

Fresh Ideas Food Service Management | Catering
MLC Photography
Heidi Schoof | Copy Editing
MLC Music Department, Camille Wyffels
MLC Environmental Services

We hope you enjoyed your weekend at

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

Please come again
for some of our spring events!

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| April 18 | Wind Symphony Concert |
| May 2 | Children's Theatre: <i>The BFG</i> |
| May 6 | MLC Day |
| May 15 | Honors Recital |
| May 15 | Commencement Concert |
| May 16 | Commencement and Call Services |
| May 17-21 | Wind Symphony Tour |

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Worldwide MLC DAY

MAY 6, 2026

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