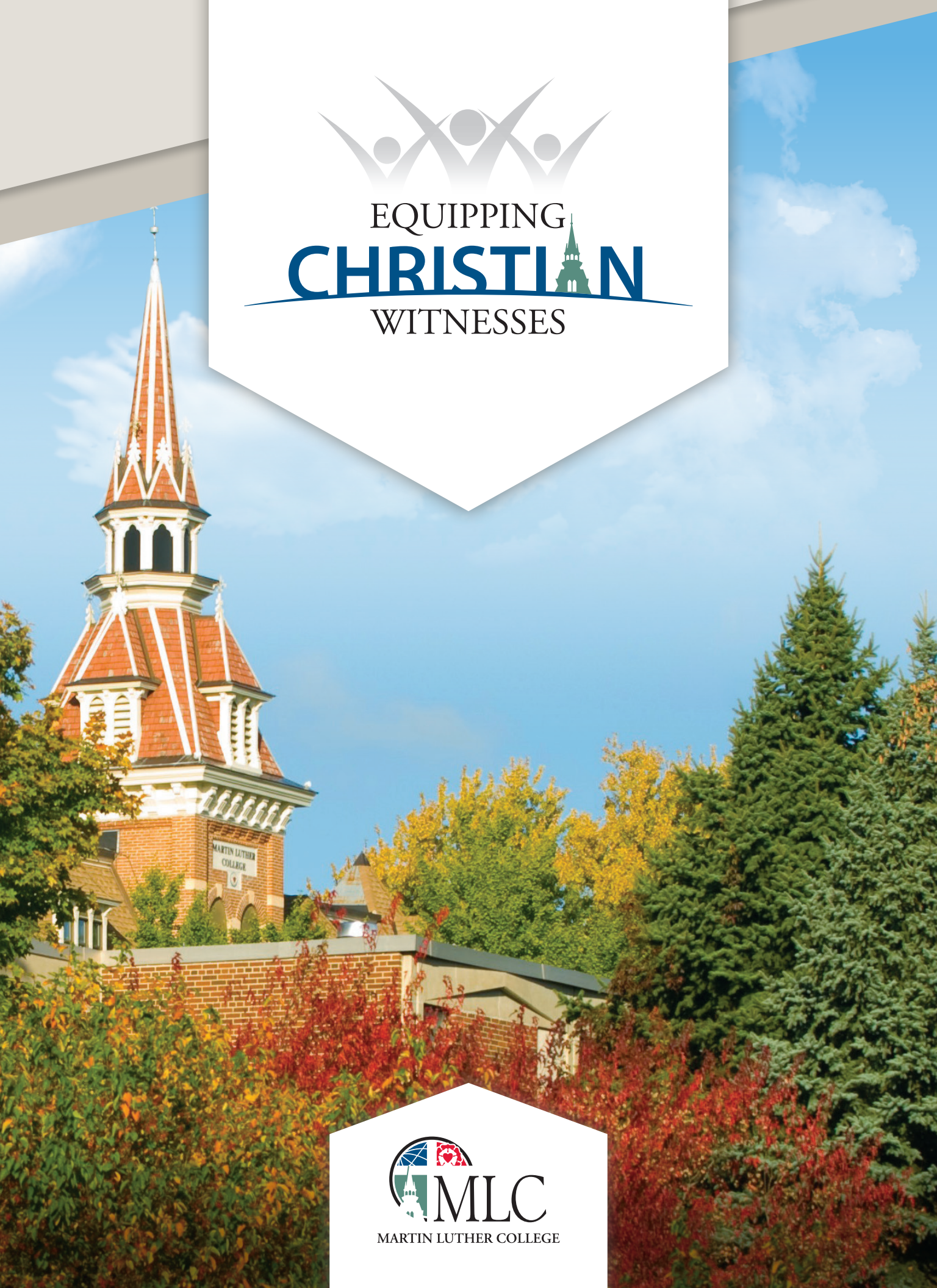




EQUIPPING  
**CHRISTIAN**  
WITNESSES



**MLC**

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE





Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary



Northwestern College



Dr. Martin Luther College



Martin Luther College

# *Celebrating 25 years* of ministerial training **Martin Luther College** **1995-2020**



*Gratefully recognizing  
150+ years of ministerial  
training in our synod*

Wisconsin Lutheran  
Seminary  
1863 –

Northwestern  
College  
1865 – 1995

Dr. Martin  
Luther College  
1884 – 1995



Past To Present  
- Connections



Watch Video

## **Martin Luther College Mis- sion:**

To train a corps of Christian witnesses  
who are qualified to meet the ministry  
needs of the Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod.





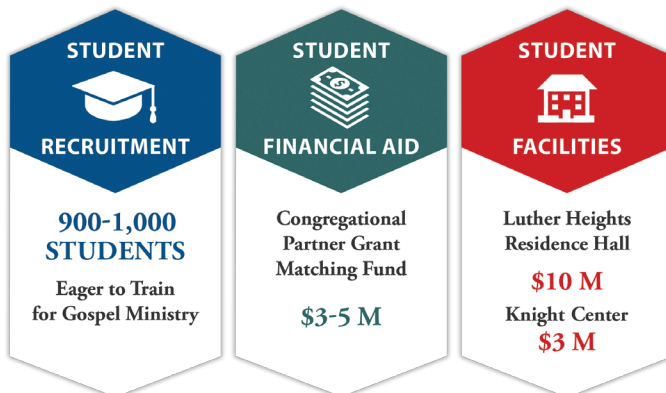
## From President Mark Zarling

Dear friends, in this, the 21st century, our church is embarking on something extraordinary.

Our gracious Savior, who “is not willing that any should perish,” is opening mission doors beyond our imagination! As the WELS College of Ministry, we at Martin Luther College want to seize these opportunities—to his glory! Now is the time for all of us to equip **even more** Christian witnesses to share Christ’s love with the world. That is what this campaign is all about.

We will re-energize our **RECRUITMENT** of students for the holy adventure of ministry. We will provide even more **FINANCIAL AID** so that every student who wants to train for ministry can do so. And we will equip these students with enhanced and enlarged **FACILITIES**—a living and learning environment worthy of this training!

By the grace of God, **EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES** will positively impact ministry for the 21st century!





## We Are the WELS College of Ministry

Martin Luther College, along with Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, prepares and provides pastors, teachers, and staff ministers for . . .

353,753 WELS members  
1,276 WELS congregations  
387 WELS preschools  
294 WELS grade schools  
28 WELS high schools



“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.”

Ephesians 4:11-12



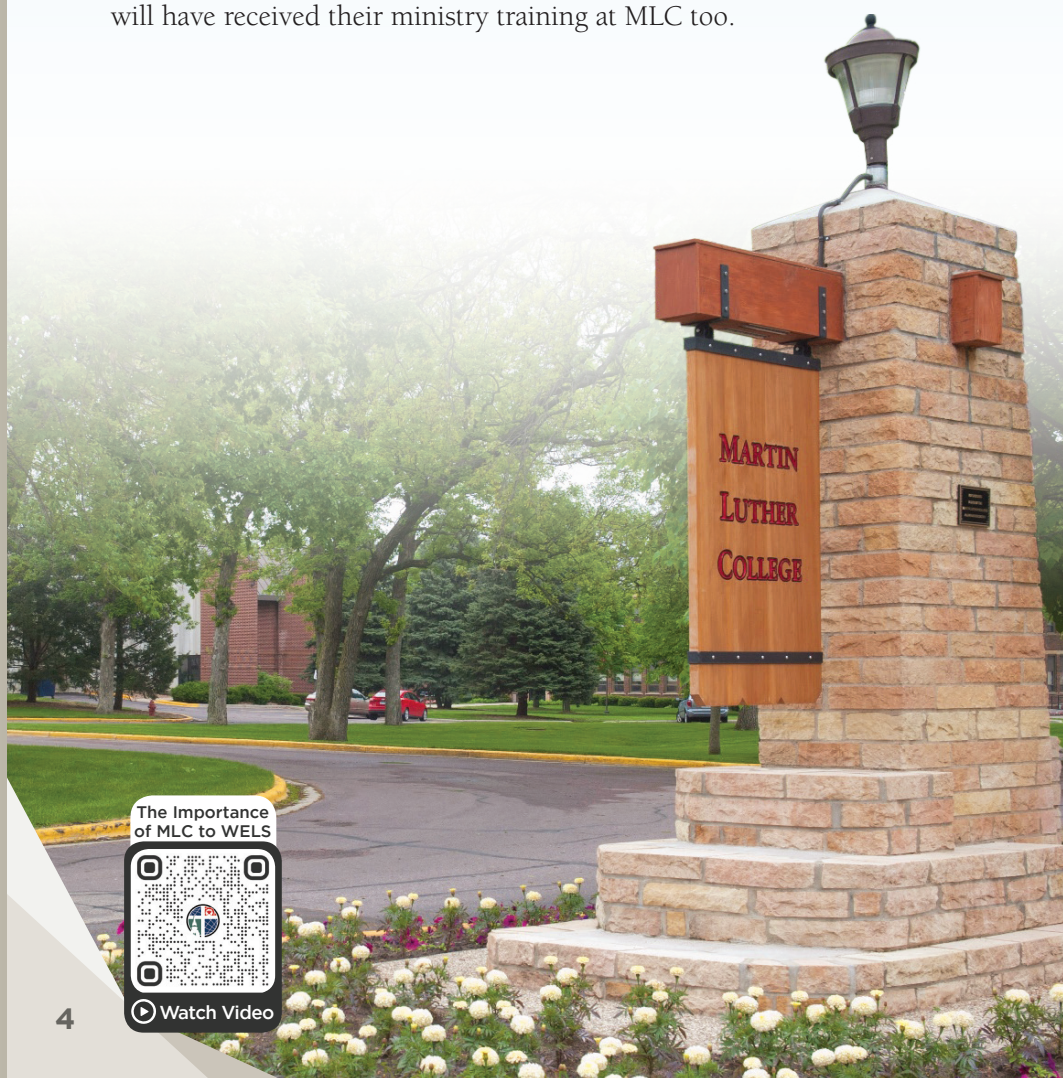
## From President Mark Zarling

Your first question may be this:

***What does MLC have to do with me?***

Though Martin Luther College may be tucked away in a little town in southern Minnesota, we would humbly submit that this college is central to the ministry of your congregation and your Lutheran school—and, by extension, the spiritual nurture of your family and your own life of faith.

The pastors and teachers who share the Word of Christ with you were almost certainly educated at Martin Luther College or its predecessor colleges, NWC and DMLC. When your church or school needs to call a new pastor, teacher, or staff minister, they will have received their ministry training at MLC too.



The Importance  
of MLC to WELS



Watch Video



# Who are these MLC graduates?

By the Spirit's grace, MLC graduates know Scripture, love Jesus, and want to share Jesus' love and forgiveness with you, your children, and your grandchildren. They are . . .



## Preseminary graduates

who have been immersed in the biblical languages and the liberal arts, and who are prepared to enroll at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. There they'll dive even deeper into Scripture, mature in their faith, and practice the skills of a loving pastor.



**Teachers** who create classrooms where Christ is the center, where the latest educational research is harnessed, and where children are loved and challenged so that they'll grow into their God-given potential and purpose.



**Staff ministers** who fill congregational calls in evangelism, music, family and youth ministry, administration, and so much more.



## Ready to Serve

Our graduates are ready and eager to use their gifts to LEAD, TEACH, and SERVE:

- Administer the Sacraments
- Teach Bible Stories
- Plan Worship Services
- Lead Adult Bible Study
- Lead Youth Group
- Direct Church Choir
- Counsel Families
- Coordinate Sunday School
- Provide Worship Music
- Lead a School as Principal
- Open a Preschool
- Teach Children to Read
- Serve as Athletic Director
- Teach High School STEM
- Direct Band and Choir
- Teach the Humanities
- Open a Mission Start
- Teach English Abroad
- SO MUCH MORE



The Holy Spirit forms servant hearts in MLC students even before they enter the full-time ministry. After Hurricane Michael hit Florida in October 2018, MLC Daylight Program students helped with cleanup at Grace Lutheran Church in Panama City. One Daylight team stayed for the church's first worship service after the storm and joined the congregation in singing, "What Is the World to Me."



# ENROLLMENT

**730** Undergraduates on campus

49% Female 51% Male

**99%** Traditional age students

## MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Part-time and full-time students

## EDUCATION

**131** First-year  
**132** Sophomore  
**116** Junior  
**100** Senior  
**54** Fifth-year  
**9** Other

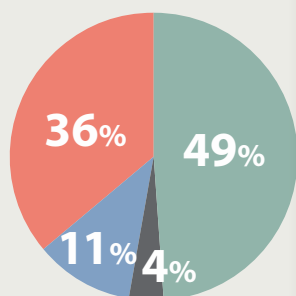
**542** Total

## PRESEMINARY

Year of graduation

**61** 2021-22  
**34** 2020-21  
**46** 2019-20  
**47** 2018-19

**188** Total



### Undergrad Students by High School

Area Lutheran High Schools 49%  
 Prep Schools 36%  
 Public 11%  
 Other 4%

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

900-1,000 STUDENTS  
 EAGER TO TRAIN FOR  
 GOSPEL MINISTRY



## From President Mark Zarling

This pillar of our campaign depends on the spiritual gift of encouragement.

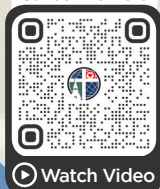
For many of our students, it was just one person's encouragement that motivated their decision to become a pastor or teacher. That person may have been another pastor or teacher, a spiritually mature member of their congregation, a grandparent they admire, their loving parents, or a trusted friend.

We humbly ask you to encourage prospective students as well. Why? Because we need many more Christian witnesses. We are facing both . . .

- a concerning number of **CURRENT VACANCIES** in our congregations and schools and
- an exciting and almost unimaginable number of **OPEN DOORS** to new ministries.

MLC enrolls about 750 on-campus undergraduate students. Could that number grow to 900? To 1,000? Perhaps. What we know for certain is that higher enrollment numbers are required to meet the numbers in need: the thousands of souls in existing WELS congregations who are needing a new pastor or teacher and cannot get one . . . the hundreds of thousands across the world who are asking for biblical instruction . . . and the multitudes who do not even realize that they are lost.

The Need For Called Workers



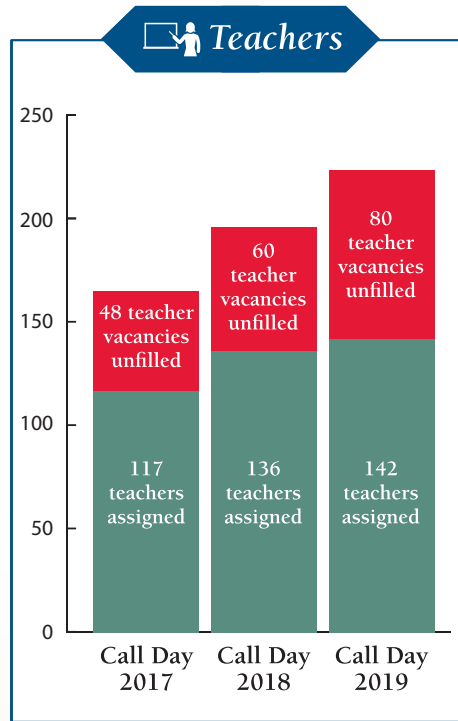
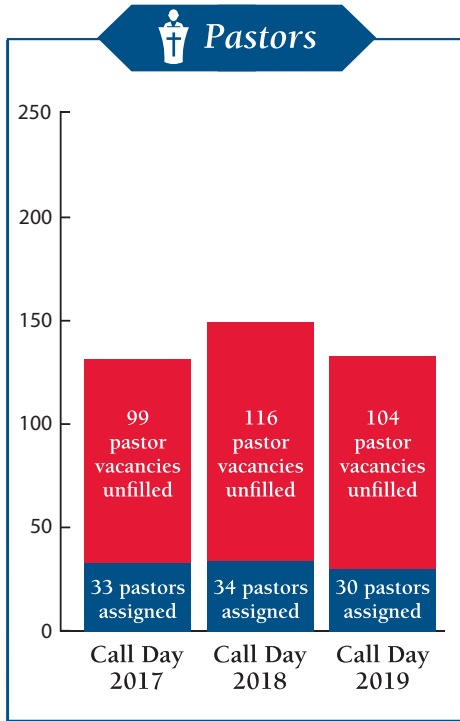
Watch Video



## Current Vacancies

For several years, we've had an increasing demand for more pastors and teachers. Large numbers of baby boomers are retiring, and we simply don't have enough candidates to replace them.

After new pastors and teachers were assigned in May, many congregational vacancies remained. If your congregation is one that's been waiting for a new pastor or teacher, you understand the need firsthand.



"Throughout high school, my teachers and professors encouraged me and my classmates to consider the public ministry. One of my tutors, Matt Rothe, really encouraged me to give MLC a chance. My parents were supportive, and my mother prayed for me and encouraged me along the way. I don't think I was one hundred percent sure even when I stepped onto campus, but I am now."



### **Matt Zeng MLC '19**

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary student



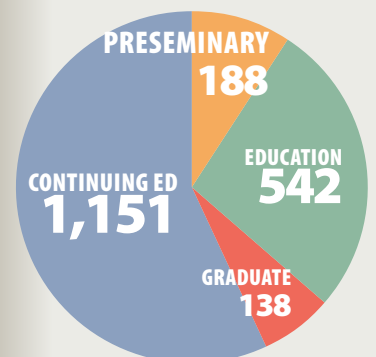
## The "Other" Enrollment

MLC's total enrollment includes hundreds of students taking courses in graduate studies and continuing education (GSCE). In fact, these GSCE students outnumber our on-campus undergrads.

GSCE students may be finishing a master's degree in education, educational administration, or theological studies. They may be studying Hebrew on our campus every summer. Or they may be taking workshops and webinars to meet the current needs of their ministries.

Whatever professional and spiritual growth options they choose, we are here to serve them as they humbly strive to become even better equipped for their ministries.

## **ENROLLMENT: 2,019 STUDENTS**





## The World Is Calling

In addition to the wide-open door in Vietnam, God has presented us with many other opportunities, all of which require more called workers than we have right now! Here are just a few examples:

In **East and Southeast Asia**, dozens of MLC graduates have served, teaching English and Bible and practicing friendship evangelism. We've also started a school with a current enrollment of 100+.

**Africa** has 276 congregations served by 11 WELS missionaries and many national pastors. We also operate several seminaries.

In **Latin America** tens of thousands of souls are learning about their Savior through the online site and social media presence of **Academia Cristo**, and then welcoming our missionaries who are training people to start their own churches. Ecuador, Paraguay, and Argentina are especially wide open now.

The **Apache** mission with its two schools, East Fork and Peridot-Our Savior's, is growing substantially in enrollment. More teachers and pastors will be needed.

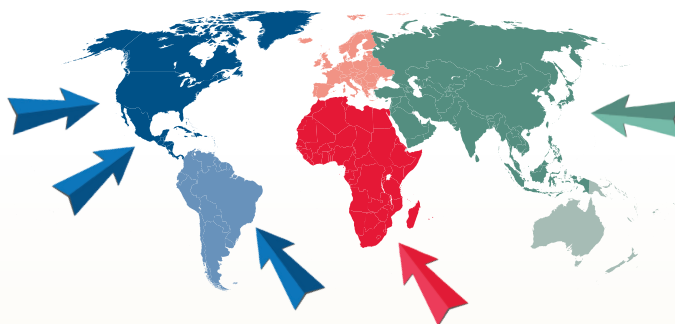
### STUDENT RECRUITMENT

900-1,000 STUDENTS  
EAGER TO TRAIN FOR  
GOSPEL MINISTRY

## Open Doors

Never before in our synod's history have so many people from so many countries approached our synod for instruction in the Word and for help in reaching the lost. Never before have we had the technology to teach the gospel in countless homes and many different countries. The Spirit is working through both 'net and jet—technology and transportation—to make the world smaller and God's kingdom bigger.

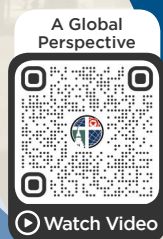
The Holy Spirit has opened huge doors for us in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Most recently, the Hmong Fellowship Church in Vietnam—more than 100,000 souls—asked that we provide them with ministerial training. At the invitation of the communist government of Vietnam, we are building a theological training facility in Hanoi.



The Spirit has also opened more doors in our country:

- Seventeen new home missions were approved in 2018, many with schools or preschools. These ministries need workers.
- WELS urban schools, spurred by Parental Choice laws, are outgrowing their facilities and their faculties. Milwaukee alone has capacity for an additional 150 teachers.
- WELS preschools—almost 400 of them!—are proving wonderful seeding grounds for the gospel.
- Four campuses of Divine Savior Academy in Florida and Texas enroll 1,000+ students and are still growing. These schools could field 100 teachers or more over the next few years.

We need more Christian witnesses! We need trained pastors, teachers, and staff ministers to seize these new opportunities to impact the world with the Word.



## Did you know?

In the last dozen years, more than 150 MLC graduates have opted for international service in 13 countries. Our young Christians are travelers, unafraid to step outside boundaries and comfort zones to share the love of the Savior.





## What Can You Do?

How can you help recruit students eager to pursue gospel ministry at MLC—students who might become **your** next pastor, teacher, or staff minister?

You probably can identify a couple students right now in your own mind. Tap them on the shoulder! Be the encourager they need:

- I really enjoyed the devotion you gave at school. I think you should be a pastor!
- You're a magnet for little children! I bet you'd be an excellent preschool teacher.
- Have I ever told you about my student days at MLC?
- I've noticed the way others follow your lead—would you want to lead a church one day?
- God has really given you a gift for [music, athletics, speaking, etc.]. I can see you using that talent in the church!

Use this QR code to submit a name to MLC electronically. Or go to **[mlc-wels.edu/go/recommend](https://mlc-wels.edu/go/recommend)**. Or use the form on page 23 to submit it to us on paper. We will reach out and ask permission to send the student information about MLC so they can consider ministerial training for their future.



## A Prayer for More Christian Witnesses

The Church is yours, Lord Jesus, and all gospel servants are gifts of your grace. We thank you for them, and we ask you to please send more! Kindle a fire in the hearts of your people—a fire of humility and faith, of courage and compassion—that they might eagerly pursue full-time service to you and your Church. Amen.



“Though not a pastor himself, my Grandpa Rupnow was my inspiration. His selfless attitude of service and faithful love were great motivators, and I wanted that to be the hallmark of everything I did in my life as well.”

**Christian Willick MLC '19**

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary student



“In high school many teachers encouraged me to consider MLC. So I came on a Focus on Ministry trip and fell in love with the campus and the idea of being a teacher.”

**Danielle Hall MLC '18**

Teacher, Zion-Rhineland WI

## Second-Career Students Needed as Well

A police detective . . . a U.S. Marine . . . a bank teller . . . a Fortune 200 management consultant—these are just some of the first careers that our second-career students have left to pursue ministry training at MLC.

Second-career students often bring with them a lifetime of experience that blesses us on campus and serves them well in their kingdom work.



**Adam Lambrecht**, for instance, a 2019 seminary grad (**pictured**), is now a 40-year-old rookie pastor. He says: “I hope my experiences among the Navajo, or having my wife diagnosed with cancer or having a miscarriage, or wrestling with the adjustments that come from being a ‘nontraditional’ student have helped me develop a broad understanding of how life is sometimes different and difficult and even weird for people. I hope I’m able to encourage others in a very personal and meaningful way what it means when God promises, ‘Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.’”

Do you know someone who may not have chosen ministry during their college years, but might be uniquely positioned for it now? Perhaps God will use your word of encouragement to point their feet toward a new calling, beginning at Martin Luther College.



# MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

*"Best College  
for Your Money"*

## Bachelor of ARTS & SCIENCE

**#1 IN MINNESOTA**  
*Best College for Your Money*



### Chosen based on

- Educational quality
- Affordability
- Alumni success

### Other #1 Colleges

New Jersey: Princeton  
Connecticut: Yale  
Wisconsin: UW-Madison

**#3 IN AMERICA**  
*Best Value*



### Chosen based on

- Graduate earnings
- Student loan repayment
- Graduation & retention rates

### Also: Top 1%

**in Nation**  
"Best Value" for  
international students

## Master of Science IN EDUCATION

**#1 IN AMERICA**  
*Best Value*



### Chosen based on

- Cost
- Program Quality
- Student Success

**#3 IN AMERICA**  
*Most Affordable*



### Chosen based on

- Tuition
- High rankings by others

## STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

CONGREGATIONAL  
PARTNER GRANT  
MATCHING FUND \$3-5 M



## From President Mark Zarling

Our second pillar addresses student financial aid.

College debt is a concern across our nation. We at MLC are especially concerned, because we know that our graduates are not entering positions that will allow them to pay off college loans quickly.

Here is the data. Since 2015, 75% of our students have graduated with debt, and that debt averages \$25,000.



## MLC Student Debt

HOW MANY STUDENTS  
GRADUATE WITH DEBT?

**75%**

WHAT IS THEIR  
AVERAGE DEBT?

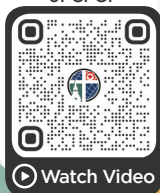
**\$25,000**

As you well know, we are driven to keep costs low and quality high. By God's grace, our tuition, room & board is about half that of other private institutions, and our efforts at affordability have been recognized nationally. MONEY Magazine, College Factual, and other rankings have placed us at or near the top of their "Best Value" lists.

Still, those debt figures are cause for concern and prayer. We want our students to graduate with as little debt as possible, and we never want cost to deter a prospective student from pursuing their dream of ministry training.

One avenue to help alleviate that debt is the **Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP)**. In this pillar of the campaign, we'd like to establish a solid foundation for the CPGP, fully funding MLC's CPGP Matching Fund for years to come.

The Impact  
of CPGP



Watch Video





## Here's How *CPGP Works*

Through CPGP, MLC matches dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000, the gift a congregation gathers to apply to the tuition of their student at MLC.

As a renewable effort, CPGP can provide four or five years of financial aid support—up to \$10,000 to each student—in addition to the other financial aid the student receives.

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	FUTURE
<b>PARTNER CONGREGATIONS</b>	80	150	250	300
<b>STUDENTS RECEIVING GRANTS</b>	100	250	450	600
<b>CONGREGATIONAL GRANTS</b>	\$90,000	\$200,000	\$375,000	\$500,000
<b>MLC MATCHING FUNDS</b>	\$90,000	\$200,000	\$375,000	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL GRANT MONIES AWARDED TO STUDENTS</b>	\$180,000	\$400,000	\$750,000	\$1,000,000

In EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES, we are asking you to consider a financial partnership with MLC on behalf of all our sons and daughters. Your gift will help provide the **MLC MATCHING FUNDS** for these congregational gifts.

## The Cost of College

Yes, college is expensive, but we're happy to report these positives:

- MLC tuition, room & board is very low, compared to other private colleges.
- At MLC we do not adhere to the high tuition/high aid model, whereby some colleges inflate their tuition rate and use the excess monies gathered from more affluent families to provide more financial aid to needier students.
- We are grateful for a synod subsidy that supports approximately fifteen percent of our operating budget.
- We continue to do all we can to keep quality high and costs low at the WELS College of Ministry. We want to glorify God by following the highest stewardship practices and maintaining a campus that is safe, efficient, comfortable, and beautiful.



## How Much Do MLC Students Actually Pay?

**2017-2018 COSTS: \$20,470**

**AVERAGE FINANCIAL AID: \$7,600**

**AVERAGE OUT-OF-POCKET: \$12,870**

## MLC Students Support Themselves Too

Our students take their financial responsibilities very seriously. The vast majority of them work during their breaks to earn money for college.

And more than half of the student body works on campus during the school year too. In 2018-19, 379 students held jobs on campus, 68 in the MLC cafeteria and 311 students in various offices: admissions, alumni, athletics, maintenance and janitorial, music, the Student Success Center, the library, and so on. Some even work as campus photographers, as pictured below.

Others work off campus during the school year as well, coaching, cleaning, tutoring, babysitting, refereeing, clerking, waiting tables, even milking cows.

We're proud of how hard our students work, but we don't want them to work so many hours that it negatively affects their study habits. Their #1 job is ministry training!



  
**STUDENT  
FINANCIAL AID**

CONGREGATIONAL  
PARTNER GRANT  
MATCHING FUND **\$3-5 M**

## *The Congregational Partner Grant Program* **MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**



"Since we didn't have any students currently on the worker training path, we wanted to support other students who were. We rejoice in the fact that we are walking together with a larger body of believers to spread the gospel to the world. We are happy to support the advance of the gospel, and those who proclaim it, in any way we can!"

**Pastor Michael Koepke**  
**Salem-Ann Arbor MI**  
**Matching Congregation**

"My church doesn't have any students at MLC this year, but I donate because it's the right thing to do to ensure the next generation of Christian school teachers and pastors."

**An MLC Donor from Ohio**  
**Matching Congregation**



"My congregation gives me constant encouragement through prayers and care packages, as well as with the congregation matching funds. It means so much and keeps me going a lot of the time."

**Noelle Boucher '21**  
**Shepherd of the Valley-Westminster CO**

Benefits of  
Financial Literacy



## **Did you *know*?**

Every MLC student participates in our financial literacy program, MLC Direction. They meet one-on-one with our financial literacy coordinator, and they participate in short courses and group sessions. We want to help them stay on course financially!





"The pastors and members of St. Paul's are genuinely excited for my continued success at MLC. It's difficult to put into words what it means that my fellow members of the holy Christian church have my back as I prepare to bring the gospel to all nations."

**Jeremy Fluegge '20**  
**St. Paul-Onalaska WI**



"My home congregation is participating in the grant program, which is a huge help financially. Also, they pray for me and my studies all the time. To know that I have support at home is crucial to my success here."

**Faith Otte '21**  
**Bethel-York NE**



## Other Scholarships & Grants

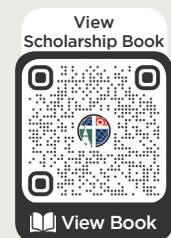
In addition to the Congregational Partner Grant Program, Martin Luther College awards merit scholarships and need-based grants totaling more than \$2 million every year.

Students win the scholarships based on different categories of merit: their grade point average, mastery of Greek, musical talents, or service to the campus, for example.

Students receive grants based on their financial need.

As opposed to loans, all scholarships and grants are "free" money that never needs to be paid back.

We're grateful to the donors who have established many of these scholarships and grants. And we are actively seeking to establish more!



## Current MLC Residence Halls



**Summit Hall**  
*Built 1911*



**Centennial Hall**  
*Built 1950*



**Augustana & Concord Halls**  
(formerly Hillview and Highland)  
*Built 1964/1970*

## STUDENT FACILITIES

LUTHER HEIGHTS \$10 M



## From President Mark Zarling

As a centerpiece of this campaign, we want to build a new residence hall and renovate our current dormitories to meet the needs of the next generation.

Admissions counselors report that the campus visit is the most important factor in the prospective student's college decision-making process. Generally, our visitors love the Christ-centered culture of MLC, the beautiful chapel, the well-tended grounds, the welcoming faculty, and the friendly and dedicated students.

Our campus facilities, however, are in need of an update! Almost all our buildings are more than 50 years old. We are grateful to the Christians of past generations who gave so generously to make them a reality. Unfortunately, buildings are not timeless, even if the Word spoken within them is.

Now it is our generation's turn. With the input of two consulting firms—and keeping in mind good stewardship of the synod's resources—we have prioritized a new residence hall: Luther Heights!

Luther Heights will allow all students to live on campus. (Right now, some students are compelled to live in alternative, off-campus housing because of our lack of space.) It will provide rooms for the prospective students who visit us, sometimes in groups of several hundred. And, if God so blesses, it will provide a home away from home for the expanding enrollment we are anticipating.







## Luther Heights Residence Hall

The beautiful Luther Heights is modest but high-quality, providing our students both more personal space and more shared space for collaboration. Overlooking Summit Avenue, at the main entrance of our college, it will be a beautiful new focal point of the campus and a wonderful place for our students to call home—a place where they'll live, learn, and grow together as a Christian community.



The architectural design of Luther Heights respects the historic aesthetic of our campus, but also tips its hat to the future, especially with the striking glass Skyline Studies on the ends of each floor.



## Campus Living Then and Now

When students came to DMLC many decades ago, living conditions at college were just like home: shared bedrooms, shared bathrooms, no air conditioning.

Today's students are not looking for anything fancy, but they are accustomed to air conditioning and a little more privacy and personal space.

An updated residence hall like Luther Heights will make the daily lives of our students more comfortable, ease the transition of new students from home to college, and perhaps sway undecided students to give MLC a try.



"A conversation over a shared love of the caf's guacamole can start off a great friendship, but knowing that someday we'll

all be coworkers in Christ makes for deeper relationships. MLC **is** different. Not only is it an awesome place for making friends, but it's also a phenomenal place to strengthen our relationship with our best friend forever, Jesus."

**Julia Schibbelhut '22**  
St. Paul-Onalaska WI

# Luther Heights Residence Hall

152 beds  
42,678 square feet  
4 floors

## ALL LEVELS

4-Bed Suites  
Study Lounge  
2 Skyline Studies  
Large energy-efficient windows

## MAIN LEVEL

Gathering space for families and visitors  
Office  
Director's apartment

## LOWER LEVEL

Kitchen  
Exercise Room  
Restroom / Locker Room  
Laundry  
Outdoor Patio

## GREEN SPACE

## 153 PARKING SPACES

## STUDENT FACILITIES

LUTHER HEIGHTS \$10 M

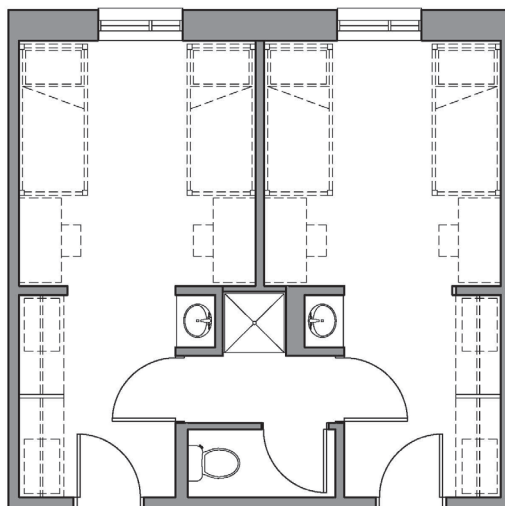
A **STUDY LOUNGE** on each floor can be used for Bible studies, small meetings, and study projects—all by the light of a gas fireplace!

Two all-glass, sunlit **SKYLINE STUDIES** on each floor will provide panoramic views of New Ulm's picturesque river valley. These study spaces will be open to all students, not only those in the Heights, for coursework and collaboration.



A large **GATHERING SPACE** inside the entrance, with coffee and other amenities, will provide much-needed social space for students, family, and other visitors.

A **PATIO** will take advantage of the beautiful view of New Ulm from Summit Avenue.



In Luther Heights, four students will live in each two-bedroom **SUITE**. Each room will have two beds, two desks, two closets, and one sink. The four students will share the bathroom and shower.

Residence Hall Details



Watch Video



## Did you know?

In a 2015 survey, MLC students listed a new residence hall and student gathering spaces as the top needs on campus. Luther Heights will provide both!



## Life on the Hill

Martin Luther College is a residential college, as opposed to a commuter college. Our students don't go home for the weekend; they make their home here on the hill.



Living and learning together 24/7 allows for greater maturing and individuation, relationship building, and lots of fun.

Residence halls like Luther Heights are the places where much of this living and learning together occurs. They're the places of Bible studies and collaborative ministry projects, of late-night conversations about faith and the future, of personal growth and lifelong friendships.

## Summertime at Luther Heights

We're excited about the summertime possibilities that a new residence hall opens up for us.

During the hot summer months, the comfortable accommodations of Luther Heights—with its air-conditioning and semi-private bathrooms—would allow us to comfortably host larger events for the greater synod:

- OWLS National Rally
- WELS Worship Conference
- LWMS Convention
- Minnesota District Convention
- WELS Biennial Synod Convention

We would also be wonderfully positioned to host youth camps, which not only develop the God-given gifts of our children and young people, but also serve as a natural recruitment arm.

- Athletic Camps
- Music Camps
- STEM Camps

We're excited about the possibilities!



"Luther Heights will be great for recruitment because it will be an attractive, new building of

brick and glass, a comfortable place for recruits to envision themselves living.

"A huge blessing of being at MLC is the faith all the students and faculty share. Professor Nass recently said in chapel that Jesus brings us not only perfect peace with God, but also a degree of peace with fellow believers. Friendship between believers is a great blessing.

"Luther Heights seems like a place that will promote that Christian friendship and will prepare MLC for more students."

### Jared Lindemann '19

Member, Luther Heights Building Committee



"Life on the hill is a great blessing for students. We are daily encouraged in our faith through classes,

chapels, professors, and friendships. The life we lead on the hill gives us a great foundation on which to build. It's a great college experience to prepare us for serving Jesus."

### Jamie Spaude '19

Member, Luther Heights Building Committee



## From President Mark Zarling

Athletics and physical education are an important part of the Martin Luther College experience. For those students training to be PE teachers and coaches in WELS schools, they are an integral part of their development as future called workers.

One of our basketball players said it well. He said he was thankful MLC provided him the opportunity to use all his gifts to the fullest and to “grow into the Christian man I want to be.”

For many years, however, we have not had adequate athletic space—for our student body, our teams, or visiting teams.

The new Knight Center will meet these pressing needs of today and help us offer expanded opportunities tomorrow. Specifically, the Knight Center will . . .

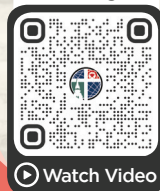
- Expand the PE curriculum to year-round
- Allow all spring sports to practice regularly
- Provide additional locker rooms for home and visiting teams
- Multiply opportunities for health and wellness
- Increase intramural offerings
- Create community connections
- Save money currently spent on facility rental for spring practices



### Did you know?

Intramural sports are a huge part of student life at Martin Luther College. While the average intramural participation rate at other NCAA Division III colleges is 19%, MLC boasts a 63% participation rate. Two out of every three students play intramurals!

Spring Sports  
Challenge



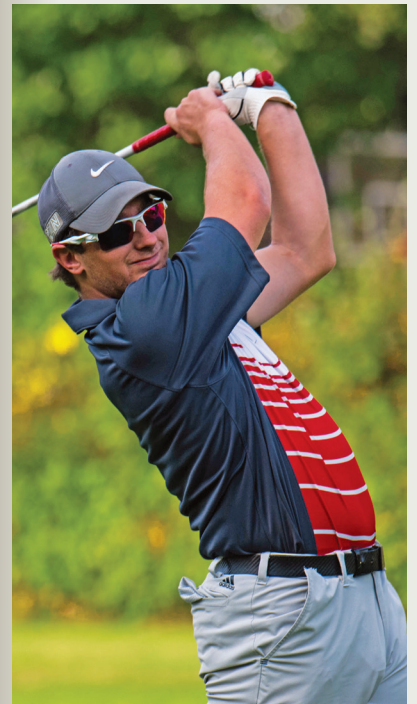
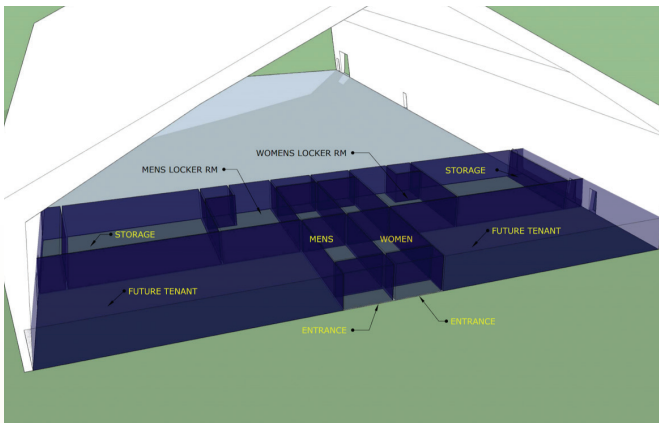
Watch Video





## Knight Center

This 36,000-square-foot facility will provide for many of our athletic department's needs: locker rooms, batting cages, golf simulators, and yards and yards of artificial turf.



## Two Additional Benefits of the Knight Center

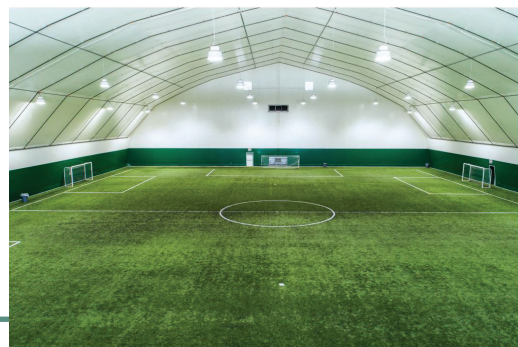
- **Positive Budgetary Impact:** Right now our athletic department pays rental fees to facilities all over southern Minnesota, some more than 100 miles away, so that our spring teams can practice. These fees place a heavy demand on our athletic budget. The Knight Center will allow us to practice in our own facility and stop spending money on rental fees and excessive travel.
- **Community Connections:** When our students are not on campus, we will welcome community teams, organizations, and individuals to use our facility—the turf field, batting cages, golf simulators, etc.—for an appropriate usage fee. We enjoy an excellent relationship with our community. The city is supportive of the college, and MLC students work and volunteer throughout the area. The Knight Center will provide more opportunities for us to be a good neighbor.



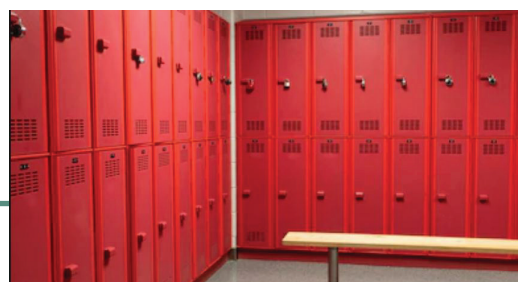
### STUDENT FACILITIES

KNIGHT CENTER \$3 M

Large turfed field for track & field, softball, baseball, soccer, football, golf practices, intramurals, student life activities, recreation, and fitness



Locker rooms and showers for home and visiting teams



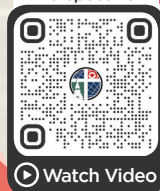
Batting cages for baseball and softball



Golf simulators for golfers of all ages, all year round



Student Athlete's Perspective



Watch Video



## Did you *know*?

At MLC, we stress the “scholar” in scholar-athlete, and it shows. In 2017-2018, MLC teams earned top GPA awards in 9 of 16 UMAC sports. Individually, a conference-best 161 MLC athletes made the Academic All-Conference list.





## The Knight Center - Recruitment Connection

The Knight Center will also enhance recruitment and retention.

MLC exists in a competitive marketplace. Many, perhaps most, 18-year-olds are not certain they want to be a pastor, teacher, or staff minister. They will often choose a Christian college that will help them continue to discover and develop their gifts while they make their vocational decisions.

We would like that college to be MLC. We would like to show them that we care about the full development of all their God-given gifts, including their athletic gifts, and we will supply the facilities that support that development.

One graduate recently admitted that when he enrolled at MLC, he hadn't intended on being a teacher; he just wanted to continue competing in the sports he loved. Today he is a happy and successful WELS middle school teacher. Based on his teaching and leadership skills, he was nominated to join the WELS 21st-Century Principal Cohort, which includes the completion of his second master's degree.

For him—and for many other undecided students—athletics and MLC campus life were the door to ministry.



"The MLC Admissions Office functions in an extremely competitive atmosphere as they help potential students consider MLC and full-time ministry. We need to offer what other schools consider normal facilities for college students. The Knight Center should not be considered a luxury but a necessity for students perusing the landscape of post-secondary education options."

**Athletic Director Jim Unke**



"I pray that sports will be a part of my ministry someday. My dream would be to get a call as a high school phy ed teacher or athletic director. I love sports. What better way to serve the Lord than by doing what you love every day?"

**Luke Meihack '22**  
**Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI**  
Elementary ed,  
secondary PE, coaching



"I'm so thankful for the opportunity to keep playing the sport I love! I know how much my coaches have influenced me throughout my life, so I'd love to be a part of that in my ministry someday."

**Becky Pruss '20**  
**Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI**  
Elementary ed, coaching

**STUDENT**  
  
**RECRUITMENT**

**900-1,000  
STUDENTS**

**Eager to Train  
for Gospel Ministry**

**STUDENT**  
  
**FINANCIAL AID**

**Congregational  
Partner Grant  
Matching Fund**

**\$3-5 M**

**STUDENT**  
  
**FACILITIES**

**Luther Heights  
Residence Hall**

**\$10 M**

**Knight Center**

**\$3 M**



## From President Mark Zarling

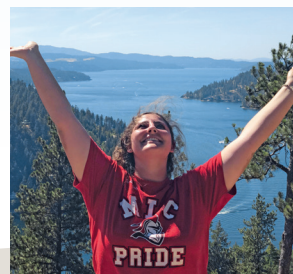
Dear friends,

You can see that we're excited about the extraordinary opportunities God is presenting to us today through **EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES**.

Perhaps God has placed you in a position where you can help us. We realize he has already blessed the world through your gifts—your faithfulness and innovation at work, your encouragement of your family and friends, your support of your church, your mentorship of the next generation, your charitable giving to those less fortunate.

Would you consider helping us in this MLC campaign as well? Help re-energize our **RECRUITMENT** of students, provide even more student **FINANCIAL AID**, and enlarge and enhance our student **FACILITIES**, that we might provide the best possible ministry training for the next generation of pastors, teachers, and staff ministers—Christian witnesses whom God will use to make an astounding mark on the world.

"Now may the God of peace . . . equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Hebrews 13:20-21



## From a Donor

"I hear firsthand from President Zarling at MLC Auxiliary meetings and elsewhere of the urgent needs at Martin Luther College, our pastor/teacher training facility. The need for more teachers is urgent, especially with school choice becoming available in many states. A WELS school may be the first place a child ever hears of a Savior that gained heaven for him/her. Recruitment for more pastors is also urgent as seen in the many vacancies in our churches.

"God has blessed our synod with a beautiful college in New Ulm, but he uses willing donors to make those blessings happen. I would encourage others to take an interest in MLC and learn of the specific needs, realizing that you and/or your church/school will be the ultimate beneficiary of any gift you give."

**Neola Raasch, friend of MLC**  
**Christ Lutheran Church-Baxter MN**



## RECRUITMENT



I'd like to recommend \_\_\_\_\_ of  
(church/school) \_\_\_\_\_ as a prospective  
student at Martin Luther College. I will continue  
to pray that the Lord of the Church inspire more men and  
women to dedicate their lives to full-time gospel ministry.



## GIFT DESIGNATION

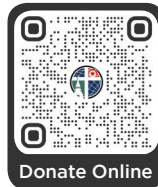
- ☐ **Campaign Gift:** A general gift  
for all aspects of the campaign [mlc-wels.edu/go/recommend](http://mlc-wels.edu/go/recommend)
- ☐ **Student Assistance:** Financial aid for students through the  
Congregational Partner Grant Program
- ☐ **Student Facilities:** New residence hall, current dorm renovation,  
and new athletic center



## AMOUNT

- ☐ **One-Time or Initial Gift \$** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Recurring Gift \$** \_\_\_\_\_ made  
☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually
- ☐ **Pledge \$** \_\_\_\_\_ given according to the following schedule:  
Beginning date: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending date: June 30, 2021  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ made ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually
- ☐ **I will pay automatically by EFT or credit card (see below)**
- ☐ **I will pay by check or other asset. Please send me reminders.**

[mlc-wels.edu/pledge](http://mlc-wels.edu/pledge)



## PAYMENT METHOD

- ☐ Check made payable to Martin Luther College
- ☐ Electronic funds transfer **Please enclose a voided check. Taken on the 15th.**
- ☐ Credit card **For security, credit card gifts should be made online at [mlc-wels.edu/donate](http://mlc-wels.edu/donate) or by phone at 507.354.8221 ext 295.**
- ☐ Appreciated assets (stocks, IRA distributions)  
**For assistance, please contact MLC (507.354.8221) or WELS Ministry of Christian Giving (800.827.5482)**



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_







MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

[mlc-wels.edu/mlc-campaign](http://mlc-wels.edu/mlc-campaign)



**WELS**  
Christ's Love, Our Calling.