

## From the President

Grace alone. Faith alone. Scripture alone. Christ alone.



Those Spirit-worked convictions filled Martin Luther and changed his life. Those same convictions are etched on the four outside walls of the Chapel of the Christ.

We pray that the Spirit again unleash his omnipotence through the Word and etch those convictions upon the hearts and souls of the campus family at MLC, and in so doing change lives.

This year is not simply an historical review of amazing events. This year is not just an occasion to have some special lectures and events to contemplate a spiritual heritage.

It is a yearlong opportunity to pray. To pray petitions of gratitude to our Savior Jesus, that he raised up a sinful human as an instrument of his Word to restore clarity to the preaching and teaching of the gospel. To pray petitions asking that the Savior continue the Spirit's breath of reformation upon each heart and soul at this place. To pray petitions that the reformation remain an ongoing reality in all our hearts and souls.

## Music Ensembles on Tour

Tour season for the MLC College Choir extended from February 17 to April 2. The 60 choir members and their conductor, Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer, performed 10 concerts in Texas and New Mexico and conducted mini-tours in Minnesota and Wisconsin, performing 18 works in their program. You can view the home concert, which includes the tour program, on the MLC Streams page. The 42 members of the Wind Symphony, under the direction of Professor Erin Meissner, will take their spring concert on the road in May, with stops in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ontario. Plan to attend a performance near you or follow the group online at the MLC Facebook page.



## Daylight USA – Here We Are, Send Us!

Martin Luther College students are eager to prepare for ministry, and they are even more eager to participate in ministry experiences across the United States. The MLC Daylight program has matched hundreds of future pastors, teachers, and staff ministers with congregations who have benefited from help in reaching out to their communities.



In groups of various sizes, MLC students sign up to assist with sports camps, vacation Bible school, neighborhood canvassing, and other outreach activities during spring and summer break. After a recent short-term mission in New York, one student wrote, "Rewards of ministry are always abounding. I can confidently say my attitude for the ministry has been strengthened." Another wrote, "Being a messenger of the gospel is such a blessing and privilege." They are eager to help your congregation! If your congregation would benefit from one or more students assisting in outreach this summer or next spring, contact MLC campus pastor John Boeder. He will help you plan a short-term mission that will be a blessing to the students and to your gospel outreach.

## Commencement 2017 by the Numbers

Official graduation totals for our May 13 commencement service:

**Total – 145, Education – 94, Preseminary – 33, Graduate Studies – 18**

## MLC Day May 3!

MLC Day was a day of celebration for our college and all who support our ministry.

**Pray, Share, Give** was our focus of our third annual event. That focus guided out messages shared with all our online friends and supporters. We are grateful for the 1,575 unique visitors to our MLCDay.com page!

**Pray** for our mission and ministry. We posted prayers that our supporters sent in for our students and our programs. Thank you for your heart-felt messages sent from 21 different churches and schools!

**Share** our message with friends. Those who have a heart for ministerial education visited our website. Visitors from 49 states and 46 countries made their mark on our MLC Day map. They shared their photos, videos, and messages with our thousands of Facebook friends!

**Give** to support our work. This year our goal was to fund 100 Congregational Partner Grants for MLC students at \$1,000 a student. A generous donor matched the first \$50,000 donations dollar for dollar. Thank you to all who made our total of \$95,000+ contributions possible!



## Alumni Tours Popular

The 2017 tour to the Ark Encounter, Creation Museum, and other notable Kentucky sites had an overwhelming response, with two buses completely sold out. A June 18-July 4, 2018, tour to the LutherLands, Austrian Alps, and Italy is being planned, with promotional and registration materials slated to go out in August. Guides and chaplains for the journey will include President Mark Zarling and Professors Jim Danell, Paul Koelpin, and Keith Wessel. The tour is open to all WELS members. Those interested in being added to the mailing list should contact Steve Balza at [alumni@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:alumni@mlc-wels.edu) or [507-217-1731](tel:507-217-1731).



## Congregational Partner Grant Program

The success of MLC's new Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP) surpassed all expectations. The God who *is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine* allowed for 54% of the 2016-2017 incoming first-year students (106) to receive their congregation's grant (\$87,000) and MLC's dollar-for-dollar match, for a total of \$176,000. The MLC Governing Board approved expansion of the program to rising first-year and sophomore students for this upcoming 2017-2018 school year.

Congregations have found that the CPGP has become a very tangible way for members to support sons and daughters of the congregation who are training for the public ministry. At the same time, students at MLC receive much encouragement in knowing that others are praying for them and supporting them financially.

Go to [mlc-wels.edu/financial-aid/congregational-partner-grant-program](http://mlc-wels.edu/financial-aid/congregational-partner-grant-program) for more information.



## Year Two of MLC Direction

MLC Direction is the financial literacy program at MLC that offers students guidance on many financial topics to help them become better stewards of their finances now and in the future. New this year were two required group sessions: juniors focused on credit and making smart financial decisions, and first-years focused on basic money management.

Approximately 100 graduating seniors, 85 first-year students, and 10 transfer students completed a personal consultation with MLC's financial literacy coordinator first semester of 2016-2017.