



## From the President

**The Word works!** There is to be no doubt in your heart that God's omnipotence is unleashed in his spoken word. As water creates life and fruit even in a dead desert, the powerful message of the Savior God creates life and fruit even in a dead heart! The Word always works. Believers are strengthened to be salt to a decaying world. Children are taught that they are part of a forever family, joined through the Means of Grace into the Messiah Lord. May the Messiah uphold you for your labors in the Lord, young friends. And remember, the Word works, achieving the Lord's purpose for which he sent it. Stay in the Scriptures. Pray through the Scriptures. Then watch the Spirit work. It's never in vain. Gospel ministry is never in vain. Rejoice in the privilege to proclaim. *(2015 Commencement Sermon)*



## Leadership in Ministry - On Campus

**Assigned to serve:** On May 16, 134 students completed their Martin Luther College ministerial training. This includes 25 Bachelor of Arts (preseminary) degrees, 92 Bachelor of Science in Education degrees (including 23 early childhood education), two Bachelor of Science degrees (staff ministry), and five preseminary certifications. In addition, 10 students received their Master of Science of Education. At the call service, 86 teacher candidates were assigned to every level, from preschool to high school. Some of these assignments were one-year assignments for a first or second year; others were previous one-year assignments that were made permanent. All 2015 education graduates from MLC who are able to serve anywhere were assigned. More than 40 requests for teacher assignments were not able to be filled.

**New faces on campus:** Martin Luther College will be welcoming many new faces to our campus next year. Some will be filling new positions, some will be serving in our new Early Childhood Learning Center, and others will be filling the positions of professors who are retiring. We ask God to bless all these new and retiring servants. Admissions counselor assignment: David Roekle, tutor assignment: Isaac Crass, professor of history: Peter Baganz, professor of science/math: Daniel Fenske, early childhood lead teachers: Melissa Nehls and Heather Kressin. Returning as tutor: Matthew Scharf.

**MLC Day May 6, 2015:** MLC Day was a day of celebration for our college and all who support our ministry. With a three-fold emphasis—Pray, Share, & Give—MLC Day allowed supporters across the globe to pray for our work of service to the world, share our news with friends, and give to support that work. That focus was also shared through MLC online ambassadors—social media followers of MLC interested in spreading the good news of the gospel and the good news of MLC's mission and ministry. Visitors to mlcdays.com came from 45 states and many foreign countries as young and old alike joined in our online celebration. Plans are already in the works for MLC Day 2016 on May 4. If you would like to participate as an MLC online ambassador, send an email to mlcdays@mlc-wels.edu. We can't wait until next year!

**Office of Continuing Education offers great variety:** The Office of Continuing Education is again offering strong programs on campus, online, and onsite at various locations. Summer school sessions at MLC will be June 8-26 and July 13-17. The eight-week online summer courses will run June 8 – July 31. We also have 27 courses scheduled at 15 satellite locations—including Watertown, Wisconsin, where six courses will be offered at Luther Preparatory School and Trinity-St. Luke Elementary School. Continuing ed enrollment is up 60% in the last year. The growth is attributed to the convenience of courses and also to the willingness of congregations to support professional growth financially.

# THE MLC REPORT



## Leadership in Ministry - On and Off Campus

**Urban educational ministry minor approved:** The WELS Conference of Presidents requested that more MLC graduates become qualified to teach in urban schools. Our urban educational ministry minor fulfills that directive. This minor requires students to move through both experiential and classroom components so they have the opportunity to first observe and then study, practice, and reflect. The Early Field Experiences provide a framework of real-life knowledge to which the theory and strategies of the coursework can be applied. Repeated exposure to urban classrooms, supplemented with detailed discussions and study, will lead to candidates who are ready, willing, and able to serve in this field. Courses will be offered in a hybrid model including face-to-face class time and an online component.

**Chinese minor:** At the request of the WELS in convention, MLC is offering Chinese as both a minor course of study and a non-biblical language option for preseminary candidates. Students who graduate with some fluency in Mandarin will not only be more effective teachers in China; they can also use their skills here in America, where Chinese immigration continues to grow. Professor Schwartz continues to find new ways to expose students to Chinese culture on our campus and to recruit and enroll students in Chinese language study at MLC.

**New Teacher Induction continues to grow:** MLC, together with the Commission on Lutheran Schools, provides a system of New Teacher Induction (NTI) for all new WELS teachers in their first and second years of ministry. In 2014-15, 68 trained mentors provided support to 105 new teachers in 10 WELS districts. The plan is to have all new teachers in all 12 districts receive support in 2015-16. Support includes seven mentor trainings, weekly mentor-mentee contacts, monthly conversations, quarterly classroom supervisory visits, mentor forums, and beginning teacher trainings. Schools pay about two-thirds of the cost for the services, or \$1,000 for each of the two years of service.

**Spring tours reach many churches and schools:** The MLC College Choir performed 16 concerts throughout the Midwest. Beginning February 27, the 58 choir members and their conductor, Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer, traveled by bus to churches in Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois. The choir sang up to three concerts daily and performed 19 works, including their two newly commissioned pieces by Paul Mealor and Matthew Culloton. The MLC Wind Symphony headed west May 17-24 with stops in South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The itinerary included concerts in five churches, four schools—including Evergreen Lutheran High School—and a community auditorium in Salem, Oregon. Everyone on the tour was very encouraged by the support of all the host congregations and schools.

**MLC thanks Antioch II Foundation:** Martin Luther College continually seeks support that will allow us to keep our educational costs as low as possible. One funding source that has brought special blessings to our campus over the years is the Antioch II Foundation. The Antioch II Foundation generously funded grant requests for the following projects in the 2015-16 school year: Chromebooks and iPads for use in Teaching with Technology, Daylight USA ministry assistance trips, Caribbean schools physical education professional development, New Teacher Induction, Student Leadership grants, and Spanish immersion grants. We acknowledge with appreciation the support of the Antioch II Foundation for these important ministry projects.

**MLC Auxiliary serves in many areas:** MLC Ladies' Auxiliary received an extensive number of requests totaling over \$30,000 from many MLC departments. These projects fund non-budgeted needs, including outreach opportunities, international programs, classroom materials, technology needs, and audio-visual improvements. Another program of the Auxiliary is called "Befriend an MLC Student." This program matches students with individuals and congregations who provide encouragement in the form of cards, emails, or visits during the school year. Email [mlcinfo@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:mlcinfo@mlc-wels.edu) for more details. Bingo Night is another popular event hosted by the Auxiliary each year. This year, almost \$2,000 in prizes were donated and handed out to the 270 students who participated.

If you have questions related to this report or other matters related to our ministry at Martin Luther College, contact us at [mlcinfo@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:mlcinfo@mlc-wels.edu).