

### EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES

## CAMPAIGN UPDATES

### Generous MLC Day Gifts

Our Lord surely blessed our MLC Day 2021 by moving hundreds of hearts to express loving care and encouragement throughout the day!

Over \$100,000 was raised on MLC Day, which supports our second pillar, Student Financial Aid, and directly assists MLC students by enabling us to match 100 Congregational Partner Grants at \$1,000 a student.

### Giving

**\$7,769,330** Donated or Pledged to ECW

**5,453** Total Gifts

**2,697** Donors



### Betty Kohn Fieldhouse

MLC broke ground on a new athletic facility, the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse, in April. MLC administration, coaches, and students participated in the event, one which Rev. Richard Gurgel, MLC president, calls a milestone. "For many months," he says, "God was moving the hearts of our brothers and sisters around the synod—with their gifts and their prayers and their encouragement to others—to build a foundation, a financial one and a spiritual one, for this day."



A large gift from a donor family finished the funding and allowed construction to begin. The 36,000-square-foot indoor turf facility, which features large practice areas, baseball/softball batting cages, golf simulators, and locker rooms, will support a year-round

physical education curriculum, enable spring sports to practice regularly, allow for additional intramural offerings, and create community connections. Students should be able to use the new athletic center by the beginning of 2022.

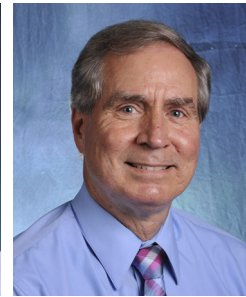
For more information on our campaign and the progress of the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse, visit our website at <https://mlc-wels.edu/mlc-campaign>

## RETIRING

We thank the Lord Jesus for these faithful servants and for their dedicated service to MLC, DMLC, NWC, and the church at large. We pray for God's continued blessings on them during this next phase of their lives.



**Prof. John Schmidt**  
Professor of Greek  
47 years of WELS service



**Prof. James Pope**  
Professor of Social Sciences, Theology, and Staff Ministry  
47 years of WELS service



**Prof. Thomas Hunter**  
Professor of English and Director of International Services  
46 years of WELS service



**Prof. Paul Tess**  
Professor of Education and Director of Field Experiences  
45 years of WELS service



**Mr. Steve Burt**  
Maintenance Engineer  
39 years of MLC service



**Mrs. Grace Bases**  
MLC Library  
21 years of MLC service

## NEW FACES AT MLC

We are blessed to be welcoming these new professors to our campus in the fall. May the Lord bless their transitions to New Ulm.



**Rev. Aaron Robinson**  
Professor of English and Cultural Diversity Coordinator



**Rev. Luke Thompson**  
Professor of Theology and History



**Rev. Daniel Waldschmidt**  
Professor of Greek

## COMMENCEMENT 2021

On Saturday, May 15, 2021, 170 students earned degrees marking the completion of their ministerial training at Martin Luther College. This included 32 preseminary Bachelor of Arts degrees, 110 Bachelor of Science in Education degrees (including 18 early childhood education), nine Bachelor of Science degrees (including one staff ministry degree, six educational studies degrees, and two theological studies degrees), two seminary certifications, and one staff ministry certification.

In addition, 10 students received their Master of Science in Education degrees, five students earned their Master of Science in Educational Administration degrees, and one received a Master of Arts in Theological Studies.



## ASSIGNMENTS TO THE MINISTRY

At the WELS call service on the MLC campus, there were 92 teacher candidates who indicated they were available to serve anywhere (66 from the graduating class and 26 from previous years), and all of them were assigned. In addition, 74 teacher candidates who were able to serve in a limited geographic area received calls, along with two staff ministry candidates. A total of 168 candidates were assigned. After the Assignment Committee met, there were still at least 90 vacancies for teacher-trained men and women synod-wide. Of those 90 vacancies, 57 submitted requests to the Assignment Committee that went unfilled.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Taken from the commencement sermon by MLC President Rich Gurgel on the theme, "You Are Servants by and of Boundless Grace."

The sermon text chosen by the graduating class of 2021 was Ephesians 3:7-9:

*I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.*

"I am so happy for the verse you chose as your class verse. The right people are listening to the right message. Your passage reminds you that the public ministry for which you have all studied, and into which many of you are about to be called, is a great privilege of grace to those who serve in it.

"He [God] wants you to grasp, as did Paul, the astounding difference between the depth of the sin of your heart and the depth of the grace in the heart of your Savior! All of which will lead you also to marvel with Paul, as you find yourself called into public ministry, what an astounding gift of grace that is! Though with Paul we must confess ourselves to be less than the least of God's people.

"When we recognize that we are servants of the gospel by boundless grace to us, we learn what it means to be servants of boundless grace to others.

"You who are a servant *by* boundless grace get to be a servant *of* boundless grace as you amaze the hearts of those you serve by showing them that where sin abounds, there grace always abounds more. Such is the boundless nature of the gospel of which you are a servant!"



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

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