



A PUBLICATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE
NEW ULM, MN

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Fall 2012

October 13
Homecoming

October 27
Ladies' Auxiliary
Annual Meeting

November 2-4
Forum musical
Singin' in the Rain

November 11
College Choir
Concert

November 18
Wind Symphony
Concert

December 7&8
Readers' Theater

December 8&9
Christmas Concerts

December 20
Graduation Service

MLC

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

From the President:

At Martin Luther College, we have worked carefully on our strategic plan for 2012-2017, *Compelled to Speak*. The plan intentionalizes our institution's purpose: to train God's people for gospel ministry. It also allows us the flexibility we need to do that in a changing world. It is my prayer that the Spirit of God keep MLC faithful to the holy Scriptures, dedicated to earnest and faith-filled scholarship, and passionate to share the message of salvation with all people.

Early Childhood Learning Center: MLC is responding to the demand for more early childhood teachers through our new Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC). Funded by the *Let the Children Come* campaign, our new ECLC will be a laboratory school that serves the whole synod. The construction timeline currently sets building to start in spring of 2013.

Let the Children Come: "The response has been very positive to our *Let the Children Come* campaign, with \$581,509 as of August 30, 2012," says Jon Scharlemann, vice president for mission advancement at MLC. "Essentially, we're running a capital campaign of many small gifts from many families who understand early childhood education and want to see more teachers graduate from MLC to serve congregations."

Continuing education: MLC's continuing education program served almost 800 students last year. Our extensive online course offerings and on-site instruction options are very popular because of their convenience and flexibility. In addition, our webinars are a new, growing method of instruction.



mlc-wels.edu



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Mandarin instruction: In a pilot project funded by an Antioch II grant, we have invited Zhang Tingting to teach Mandarin at MLC. Tingting holds a B.A. in Chinese Language Literature Education and a master's degree in Comparative Literature and World Literature. Tingting will teach Introduction to Chinese Language and Culture and Elementary Chinese I.

Welcome, new faculty members: Four new faculty members join our campus family this year. Greg Diersen *MLC '96* will serve in the math-science division. Jason Enderle *WLS '12* will teach religion and supervise the men's dorm. Michael Koepke *WLS '12* will serve as an admissions counselor. Zhang Tingting will teach Mandarin.

Enrollment figures: The Lord has blessed MLC with stable opening enrollments over the last five years, with fluctuations limited to less than one percent each year. We are currently at an unofficial enrollment of 711 students on campus. Other colleges include graduate, continuing ed, and part-time students in their enrollments. Using that formula, MLC's enrollment is 1200+ students.

Economic Sustainability Fund: MLC has kept annual student fee increases in the 3-5% range. One key financial strategy has been our Economic Sustainability Fund (ESF). The ESF is a reserve fund to help the college weather fluctuations in enrollment and synod subsidy. The administration's goal for the ESF is 25% of the annual operating budget. At today's levels, that's about \$4 million. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), our accrediting agency, asked us to develop a plan for financial stability. The ESF is a major part of that plan and will be included in our report to the HLC due in November.

Financial goals: "There are several keys to financial stability at MLC," says Steve Thiesfeldt, vice president for administration at MLC. "1) Maintain consistent and predictable synod subsidy. 2) Achieve and maintain reserve fund of \$4 million. 3) Increase student assistance dollars by \$100,000 annually. 4) Target an enrollment of 800 undergraduates. 5) Enroll 150 graduate students and touch all 2,700 WELS teachers through continuing education. 6) Increase annual facility maintenance funding to \$750,000."

For more details about this report, visit our website, mlc-wels.edu.

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