

### ENROLLMENT

**579** Undergraduates  
 Representing  
**27** states  
 and **4** countries



### MINISTRY PROGRAMS

*Part-time and full-time students*

#### EDUCATION

*Includes Staff Ministry*

**104** First-year  
**80** Sophomore  
**92** Junior  
**95** Senior  
**44** Fifth-year  
**11** Other

**426** Total

#### PRESEMINARY

*Year of graduation*

**36** 2026-27  
**42** 2025-26  
**30** 2024-25  
**45** 2023-24

**153** Total

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**56** ECE program students

### CONTINUING ED / GRADUATE STUDIES

**1,145** Continuing Education students



#### **137** Graduate Studies students

**14** MA Theological Studies

**56** MS Educational Admin

15 EC Director  
 38 Principal  
 3 Technology Director

**56** MS Education

9 Ed Tech  
 21 Instruction  
 14 Leadership  
 12 Special Ed

**11** MS Special Education

### MID-YEAR GRADUATION

**15** December graduates

Of those able to be assigned anywhere, all were permanently assigned. There were two candidates with geographic limitations (needing to be assigned to a specific area) who went unassigned. They will come before the Assignment Committee in May. And there were several requests that went unfilled.



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### A Prayer to Speak . . . and an Example to Live

*by Rich Gurgel, MLC president*

It's arguably the most important new paragraph in our new hymnal.

Our new hymnal *Christian Worship* is filled with wonderful worship resources for church (and home), but perhaps no paragraph may have a greater impact than this one from the Prayer of the Church in Setting Three of The Service (p 198):

*Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.*

What an eternally important set of petitions to ask from our gracious God for the next generations!

How important that we renew the practice of regularly praying for workers. The new *Christian Worship* restores in our midst that regular practice from the General Prayer in *The Lutheran Hymnal* (1941). There were many beautiful prayers in the previous edition of *Christian Worship*, but prayers for future workers had all but disappeared from its pages.

Since the harvest is always more than plentiful, and the workers are always far too few, this new paragraph in the Prayer of the Church takes seriously Jesus' urging us to pray for more workers!

And then don't forget the congregational response to that prayer!

*Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.*

If you're reading this update, you are a lay leader or called worker in our synod. That next generation is watching you. They are watching to see what it looks like to know the difference between "what is passing and what is eternal." They are watching to see if indeed our greatest joy is the pearl of great price, the gospel of Jesus.

May God hear and answer our prayers for workers. And may this be part of his answer: to enable us by his Spirit's power to live lives that show future workers the gospel's joy even under the cross!

## NEW DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Please join us in welcoming **Michelle Markgraf** as the director of Alumni Relations for the Mission Advancement Office. Michelle is a DMLC graduate and has served as a called teacher.



She completed her MBA, which led her to employment as the operations manager and executive director of a variety of businesses.

She has served as a director for Kingdom Workers and most recently has been running her own consulting firm. She is a passionate and driven volunteer, generously giving her time to a large number of non-profits in the area.

## MLC DAY IS MAY 1

Join MLC supporters across the globe in celebrating and promoting ministerial education on MLC Day.



### What can you do to participate in MLC Day?

You can pray, share, and give to support the training of future called workers.

- Use MLC's Project Elijah classroom materials to have your own ministerial education recruitment week.
- Write a prayer for our students and staff.
- Submit photos and videos celebrating students and graduates.
- Download signs and materials.
- **Give to your College of Ministry. Your gifts on MLC Day will help fund the Congregational Partner Grant Matching Fund, directly supporting MLC students.**

## MLC'S MISSION ADVANCEMENT

## BOOSTING FINANCIAL AID BY 10% ANNUALLY!

Approximately 75% of MLC students graduate with debt. In an effort to assist students, MLC has created a matching scholarship fund known as the Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP).



*Pursuing Excellence*  
UNDER THE CROSS

This program allows congregations to encourage and support their members who are preparing for the public ministry at MLC. It also allows individuals and congregations without student members to support future called workers.

### How does it work?

- **The Congregation** designates the monies in their CPGP fund toward their students who have been admitted to MLC.
- **MLC** matches the grants for each student.

Reducing student debt is a major focus of MLC's strategic plan ***Pursuing Excellence Under the Cross***. The CPGP has proved to be a very effective tool. In 2022-23, we matched more than \$600,000 in congregational grants, awarding a total of almost \$1.25 million to our students.

And we are looking for even bigger numbers. Each year, we are boosting the "match max" by 10%. In 2023-24, we are matching \$1,325 per student per year. *That's \$2,650 in financial assistance per student per year!*

**557** Students supported by CPGP

**284** Congregations participating in CPGP

**\$800,502** Given by congregations to the program

**\$695,780** Matched by MLC in the program

*Amounts as of 2/2/2024.*

## MLC'S CONTINUING EDUCATION

## SUPPORTING AND TRAINING GOSPEL MINISTERS WHILE THEY SERVE

As the WELS College of Ministry, MLC does more than just prepare people for future service. Increasingly, MLC supports and trains gospel ministers while they serve.

**Alternative Pathway to Professional Licensure (APPLE):** This new competency-based program for working adults is being designed to assist any WELS member to transition to Lutheran school teaching. While we are still seeking approval from our accreditor for this program, about 80 individuals have already expressed interest, and Director Nichole LaGrow plans to enroll her first cohort in fall 2024.

**Teaching Ministry Certification:** MLC is helping 213 teachers obtain their ministry certification. These are WELS educators who earned their degrees at other colleges and are seeking the theology training necessary for ministry certification.

**New Teacher Induction:** This year we are mentoring 254 first-and second-year teachers, including some who are not MLC graduates but are serving in WELS schools. We are thankful for our 163 mentors and are seeking additional experienced educators to help guide the next generation of Lutheran teachers.

**Early Childhood Ministry Support:** MLC has revamped its online training for early childhood teachers currently serving in WELS early childhood ministries. These include . . .

- Free resources for local onboarding and inservices (*available June 2024*)
- Focused 3-credit CDA Credential preparation
- Improved early childhood teaching ministry certification
- Associate degree option for those with previous college background (*tentatively available summer 2024*)

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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