

### ENROLLMENT

**609** Undergraduates on campus  
 Representing **28** states and **5** countries

### MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Part-time and full-time students

EDUCATION	PRESEMINARY
<i>Includes Staff Ministry</i>	<i>Year of graduation</i>
<b>95</b> First-year	<b>43</b> 2025-26
<b>110</b> Sophomore	<b>33</b> 2024-25
<b>88</b> Junior	<b>44</b> 2023-24
<b>112</b> Senior	<b>37</b> 2022-23
<b>32</b> Fifth-year	
<b>15</b> Other	
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<b>452</b> Total	<b>157</b> Total

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**64** Early childhood education (ECE) majors

### EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER

- 72** Children
- 4** Lead teachers
- 10** Student teachers
- 6** Student workers
- 5** Full-time staff
- 4** Part-time staff



### CONTINUING ED / GRADUATE STUDIES

<b>897</b> Continuing Education students	
<b>137</b> Graduate Studies students	
<b>15</b> MA Theological Studies	<b>68</b> MS Education
<b>54</b> MS Educational Admin	<b>11</b> Ed Tech
<b>13</b> EC Director	<b>25</b> Instruction
<b>38</b> Principal	<b>15</b> Leadership
<b>3</b> Technology Director	<b>17</b> Special Ed



### NEW TEACHER INDUCTION

- 210** Beginning Teachers
- 154** Schools
- 159** Mentors



### MID-YEAR GRADUATION

**15** December Graduates



### CONTINUING EDUCATION *by Dr. John Meyer*

Summer is a popular time for professional development. This summer, MLC will offer 102 online and on-location (face-to-face) course opportunities.

**On Location:** Five districts (PNW, WW, DM, MI, and SA) will host several MLC face-to-face classes during their June conferences. Thirteen Lutheran schools will also host an MLC course for their own faculty and those nearby.

**Ministry Certification:** District presidents urge all new WELS teachers to take the two-week course Principles of Christian Education before their first year, when possible. MLC will offer three convenient online sections and one face-to-face section in Milwaukee.

**Master's Degrees:** MLC's master's degrees provide specialized training in areas of theology, technology, special education, teaching, and school leadership. The special education licensure program is very popular, and many teachers and staff ministers are obtaining their master's in theology.

### MISSION ADVANCEMENT

**BOOSTING FINANCIAL AID BY 10% ANNUALLY!**

Through the **Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP)**, students received up to \$2,000 every year: \$1,000 from their congregation and a \$1,000 match from MLC. In 2022-23, **we increased the annual maximum to \$2,400**—\$1,200 from the congregation and a \$1,200 MLC match. **In 2023-24, the max will be \$2,650.** We will continue to increase the max by 10% every year in order to decrease the financial burden on our students and their families.



*Pursuing Excellence*  
 UNDER THE CROSS

As our graduates enter their ministries, we want them to concentrate on the joys of gospel ministry—preaching, teaching, and serving in their new congregations and schools—without being overwhelmed by financial worries. **Please encourage your congregation to participate in the CPGP program.**

- 556** Students supported by CPGP
- 282** Congregations participating in CPGP
- \$727,372** Given by congregations to the program
- \$622,501** Matched by MLC in the program



## FROM THE PRESIDENT: NAMES...NAMES...AND MORE NAMES!

by Rev. Richard Gurgel

In three years, I've conducted individual interviews with over 400 new MLC students. Over and over again what I hear are names. I may even have heard your name a time or two . . . or three.

In each interview I ask: "What got you thinking about studying for gospel ministry?" And then come the names—most frequently the names of specific called workers. Often, it's a teacher whose zeal for learning and humble Christ-like love for students led that new MLC student to say: "I want to be like my teacher!" Or it's a pastor who took a moment before or after confirmation class to look a student in the eye and say: "Have you ever thought about becoming a pastor? I see gifts for ministry in you!"

Please don't underestimate the Spirit-empowered influence you have when you carry out your calling with joy and faithfulness! Please don't underestimate the impact of even a brief conversation. I've heard new MLC students recall even the briefest conversations in great detail. You may have forgotten the conversation. They have not.

And may I share an urgent request for a topic to highlight as you encourage that next generation (**and their parents**)? Going far away from home for college—and the potential of being assigned even farther from home—causes significant anxiety for a very anxious generation. That anxiety is the #1 reason many choose another school or vocation even when studying for public ministry at MLC appeals to them!

Please encourage them not to underestimate the support of the faith family waiting for them at MLC. New students report that to me again and again. Assure them that if they are called far from home, Jesus still knows how to provide "brothers, sisters, [and] mothers" (Mk 10:29-30) beyond what we could ever imagine.

Yes, I know, some calling bodies are better than others in surrounding called workers with such support. Yet Jesus still knows how to provide those who beautifully live out that encouragement.

God-willing, next year I'll surpass the 500-visit mark. I look forward to hearing more names. I will thank God for the influence the Spirit gives you every time I hear your name!

## MLC DAYLIGHT

Daylight is a program through which MLC students do short-term service and ministry projects—both to serve the church and enhance their ministry preparation.



This program has opened doors for MLC students to share faith and gain experience ministry in our WELS mission fields, providing them with the practical experiences and cultural insights they need to better serve. Daylight connected **Grace Pocza, Emily Wittig, Madeline Liebert, and Hannah Gabb** with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Beverly Hills FL to help with a soccer camp (pictured above).

If you would like MLC students to support your ministry during their spring or summer break, contact MLC's Daylight Office at [daylight@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:daylight@mlc-wels.edu).

## MLC DAY IS MAY 3!



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

Check out [mlcday.com](http://mlcday.com) to see how you can pray, share, and give to support the training of future called workers. You can . . .

- 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.

Please submit photos and videos by Wednesday, April 27, so we can organize a full day of sharing on May 3!

## SPRING COLLEGE CHOIR TOUR

February 23 - March 3

The MLC College Choir looks forward to sharing the gospel in song on the West Coast this spring. Concerts are planned for Washington, Oregon, and California under the theme, "Christ Is All In All." Please plan to attend a concert near you, or follow the choir on Facebook to see videos from the concerts and stories from the students.

Visit [mlc-wels.edu/go/choir-tour](http://mlc-wels.edu/go/choir-tour) for more information.



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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