



Michigan Lutheran Seminary

UPDATE

Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Mark 16:15

Spring/Summer 2012

Our Mission

Michigan Lutheran Seminary exists to give teens the opportunity to train for the full-time ministry of the gospel. Our role, so well aligned with the other three ministerial education schools of the WELS, ensures the supply of young men and women whose training enables them to carry out the great commission of our Lord.

A System Worth Preserving

The Wisconsin Synod has a unique and valuable gem in our four-school, three-tiered system. This system, unlike any other, is praised and envied by other churches. It continues to supply well-trained workers to a world that more desperately needs their message with each passing year

President's Message

The MLS 2011-12 school year continues to be an exciting one. Good learning is going on. Students are preparing for presenting *Bye Bye Birdie*. Wrestlers are at the state tournament. The varsity basketball boys won the conference championship for the second year in a row and move on to the state tourney. The varsity basketball girls are doing well in their state tournament play. Project Titus assignments for summer mission trips recently were announced.

MLS is looking forward to another year of growth for 2012-13. The graduating class of 2012 is the smallest since 1953, and the new freshman class will be much larger than it by the number of applications we have received so far.

MLS continues to fulfill the mission our synod has for MLS: Preparing high school students for ministry and enrollment at Martin Luther College. This mission is always evident at MLS – whether classroom, athletic field and court, the stage, other extracurricular activities, Taste of Ministry and Project Titus experiences, or all the other aspects of campus life.

William Zeiger

William Zeiger, Ph.D.
Acting President

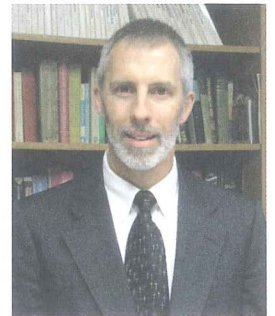
Rev. Joel Petermann Accepts MLS President's Call

Rev. Joel V. Petermann of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Amherst, New Hampshire, announced in mid-January that he accepted the call of the Michigan Lutheran Seminary Governing Board to be the seventh president of the school since its re-opening in 1910 as a preparatory school of the WELS. The MLS president's office had been vacant since September 2010.

Pastor Petermann is a 1986 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He served as an instructor at Northwestern Preparatory School and as tutor and interim dean at Dr. Martin Luther College. Before moving to New Hampshire, Pastor Petermann served Christ Our Rock Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minnesota. Since 2004 he has been the district president of the synod's North Atlantic District. He serves as one of the three Conference of Presidents' representatives on the Synodical Council.

Pastor Petermann and his wife, Jane, have three children. Their daughter Lena (MLS, '11) is a freshman at Martin Luther College, and their daughter Sophie is a junior at MLS. Their son, Ethan, is in sixth grade.

The Petermanns plan to move to Saginaw at the end of June.



Emergency Instructor Fund Helps Seminary

A unique gift to MLS in October 2010 has become a wonderful blessing for the school. An anonymous donor heard that the school was struggling to maintain its quality program following the cutbacks of 2009-10. The donor gave a \$10,000 gift and asked that nine other donors do the same to provide funding for an emergency instructor.

While other donors could not match the size of the first gift to the MLS Emergency Instructor fund, generous people worked with Ministry of Christian Giving counselor Rev. John Graf and the school to quickly build the fund. By the beginning of the 2011-12 school year, the fund was a few thousand dollars short of the intended goal, and the first donor provided the remaining money to reach the \$100,000 mark.

In the end, the fund has supported two instructors. A portion of the fund supported the salary and benefits of Rev. Andrew Naumann. A tutor at MLS in 2008-10, he was to return to the synod's Assignment Committee in May 2010. The school requested that he remain at MLS as the interim dean of students since the former dean had accepted another call that spring. Unexpectedly, the

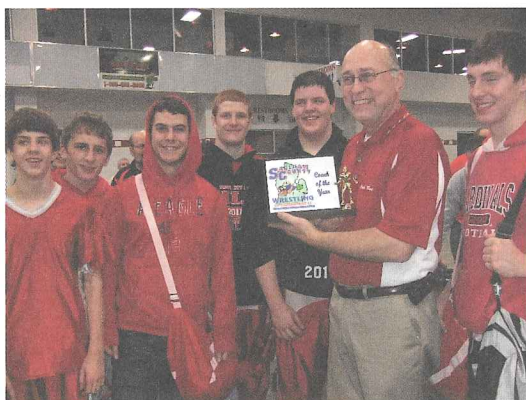
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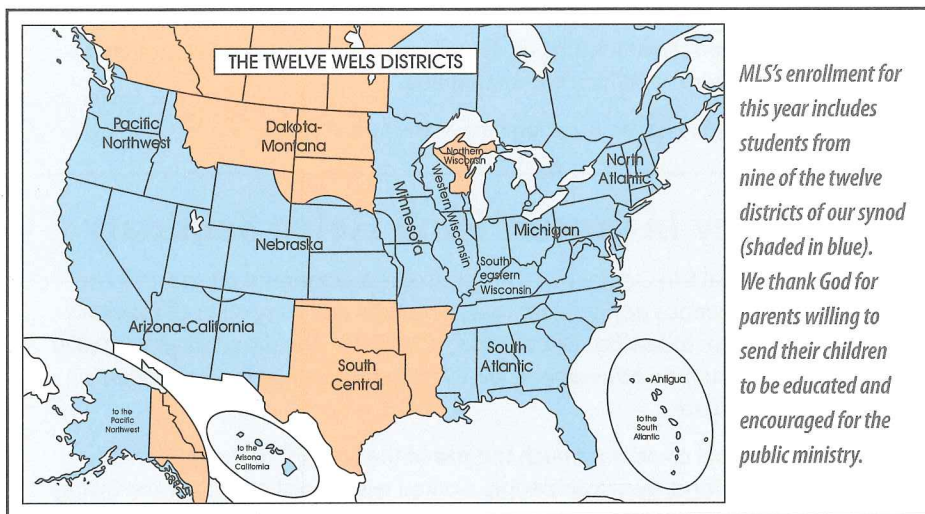
Prof. Bode Named Wrestling Coach of the Year

Professor Marcus Bode has coached varsity wrestling at MLS since the 1987-88 season. In addition to these twenty five years, he coached junior varsity wrestling at MLS as a tutor in 1974-75. He has seen years of success and years of rebuilding. He has taken many boys to annual state tournaments. This year, three of his wrestlers competed at the state tournament held at the Palace of Auburn Hills, the home of the Detroit Pistons.

At the 2012 Saginaw County Tournament, Prof. Bode was named the Saginaw County Wrestling Coach of the Year, an honor he well deserves. His fellow coaches were recognizing Coach Bode's long service and success at Seminary, as well as his service to wrestling in Saginaw County. He has been an important organizer of the annual county wrestling tournament for his entire varsity coaching career.



In this year's county meet, the MLS team placed fourth—a very strong showing considering that MLS is the smallest high school in Saginaw County with a wrestling program. In 1990, MLS placed first in the county meet. Under Coach Bode, MLS has had a reputation for fielding strong teams of well-trained wrestlers in the eyes of the Saginaw County schools and Seminary's athletic conference, whose twenty three schools reach into surrounding counties.



MLS's enrollment for this year includes students from nine of the twelve districts of our synod (shaded in blue). We thank God for parents willing to send their children to be educated and encouraged for the public ministry.

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Emergency Instructor Fund

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governing board's call for dean was accepted by the first man called, and Interim Dean Naumann quickly became Instructor Naumann. His work in the first half of the school year was very important as the school transitioned to a new dean and the school faced a vacancy in the president's office starting in September 2010. In December 2010, Instructor Naumann became Prof. Naumann when he accepted the governing board's call to become the MLS director of domestic recruitment.

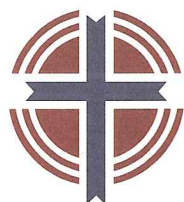
With limited funding, a growing student body, and a vacancy in the president's office, the fund allowed the governing board to call an emergency instructor, Mrs. Melissa LaBair for the second half of the 2010-11 school year. An MLC graduate, Instructor LaBair took over two English courses to give the acting president time for additional duties. She also provided some dormitory supervision and helped to coach girls' softball.

Since the 2011-12 MLS enrollment was larger than expected and funding was still very tight, the Emergency Instructor fund allowed the governing



Instructor Melissa LaBair and her husband, Seth, in the MLS inter-dorm office.

board to call Instructor LaBair for a twelve-month emergency call in June 2011, which she accepted. Her service to the school has been very important in maintaining its quality program. The unexpected gifts totaling \$100,000 have provided important faculty help across two school years – *what a wonderful blessing!*



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

Michigan Lutheran Seminary

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I thank God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:3-5