

MLC mid-year graduation Coming in 2010

Martin Luther College (MLC), New Ulm, Minn., held its mid-year graduation ceremony Dec. 17. Twelve students received degrees – one in early childhood education, 10 in elementary education, and one in both elementary and secondary education.

Four of these graduates were assigned to their first calls last week. A May 2009 graduate also was assigned. The other December graduates are either awaiting assignment, are restricted by location due to marriage, or have deferred assignment.

“We usually remember MLC’s contribution to the Church in May when we see all of the graduates becoming teachers or going to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary,” says Rev. Paul Prange, administrator of the Board for Ministerial Education. “But of course the college does its work for us year-round, and one reminder of that is the annual graduation in December of a few students who can immediately fill emergency needs that have developed in our schools.”

Rev. Mark Zarling, president of Martin Luther College, was the graduation speaker. He encouraged graduates: “Rejoice! You are heralds of Jesus’ advent.”

New components of the WELS identity initiative are set to roll out early in 2010. *Forward in Christ* magazine has been redesigned, starting with the January issue. Next, look for a redesign of this “Together” e-newsletter to more closely match the new WELS Web site, www.wels.net, introduced in fall 2009.

The initiative was launched at the 2009 synod convention in Saginaw, Mich., where the synod’s new logo was unveiled, complete with the tagline “Christ’s Love, Our Calling.” “That phrase is designed to describe our synod in the most positive terms possible, both to members and non-members alike,” says Mr. Joel Hochmuth, director of communications. “It’s designed to tell the world that Christ is at the center of all we do and proclaim.”

Please note that this is the last scheduled edition of “Together” for 2009. The next scheduled edition is set for Jan. 18, 2010, to accommodate the Christmas and New Year holidays.

For more synod news, visit the News and Events page online: www.wels.net/news-events.

Together ...in God’s Word and in our mission

Dec. 21, 2009

Christmas greetings

From the office of President Mark Schroeder

The “Together” e-newsletter was begun two years ago for the purpose of sharing with you the latest important news that every member of the synod should hear. But as we enter this week, I can think of no other news that is more important or timely than the message that will be proclaimed from every pulpit and will be sung and recited by children in every WELS congregation. That, of course, is the same news that the angels proclaimed to the shepherds on the hills outside of Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago. “To you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior. He is Christ, the Lord!”

As God permits you to hear and to proclaim that message once again this Christmas season, please accept warmest greetings from all who serve you here at the synod administration building, in our mission fields, and at our synodical schools. May the joy of Christmas be yours as you gather once more to worship our newborn Savior and King!

This year, once again, many of our fellow WELS members are serving their country and their Savior as members of our Armed Forces. They, too, will be pausing to cel-

ebate the birth of the Savior. But for many of them, their celebration will not be the traditional one. Some will be separated by miles and oceans from their loved ones and from their fellow believers back home. I was asked to send a Christmas greeting—on behalf of all of us—to the brave men and women who are sacrificing so much for the freedom we all enjoy. I know that you will join me in praying for them and for their families.

I also invite you to view our Christmas greeting to them, online at www.wels.net. Feel free to forward this message on to anyone serving in the military who might be encouraged by it.

Have a blessed Christmas and a joy-filled New Year!

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder

