







CHRIST
THROUGH US

SYNOD CONVENTION 2025

“A City Set on a Hill”

The Story of the New Ulm Campus and Its Role in WELS History

Timeline – 1800s

1850 – Founding of the Wisconsin Synod

1860 – Founding of the Minnesota and Michigan Synods

1872 – Synodical Conference

1884 – Dr. Martin Luther College's first school year

1892 – Federation of Synods

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Timeline – 1900-2025

1918 – Merger of Synods

1961 – Split with LC-MS

1979 – College (DMLC) is sole occupant of campus

1995 – Amalgamation as Martin Luther College

2009 – Chapel of the Christ built

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The “Location Question”

Why New Ulm?

A matter of endless curiosity and debate....

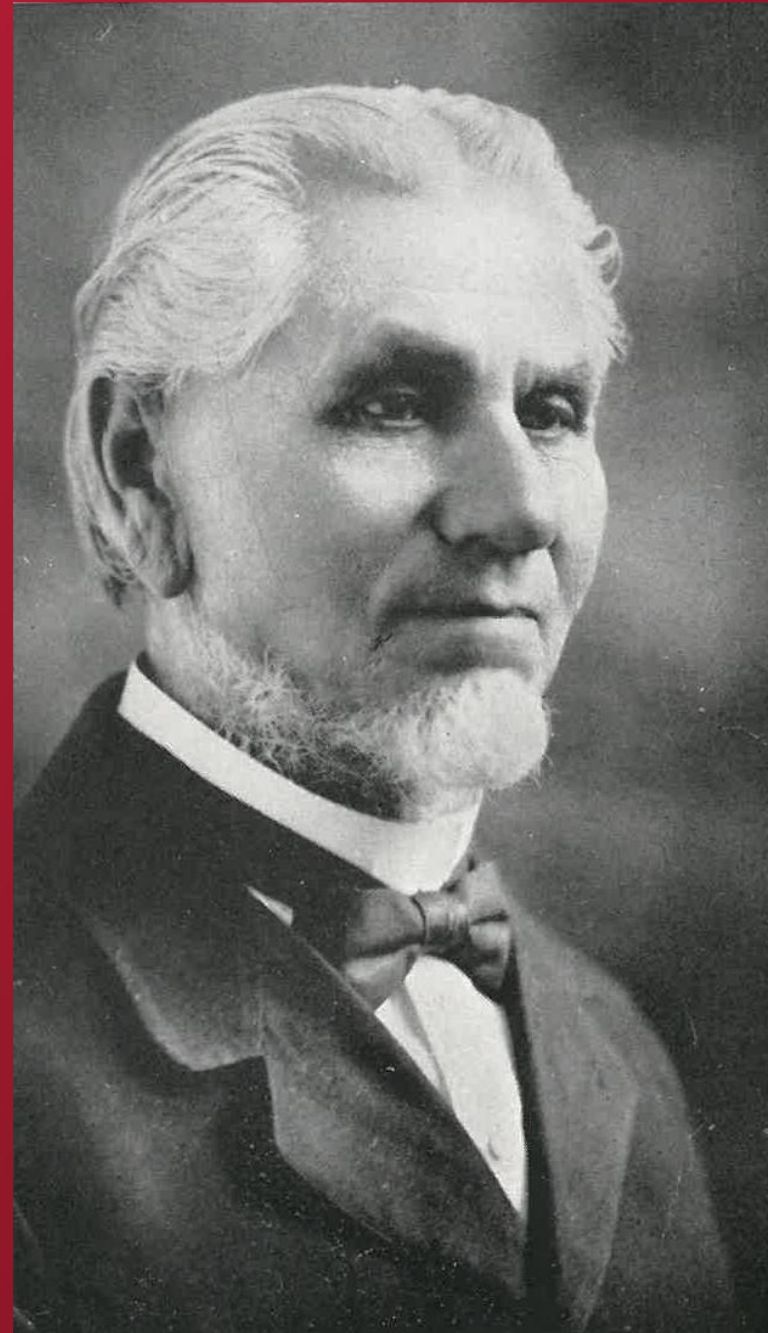
The “Location Question”

- 1884 – build in Shakopee, MN?
- 1894 – move to Saginaw, MI?
- 1908-10 – build rather in St. James or Hutchinson?
- 1917-19 – move to Watertown, WI?
- 1962 – special convention re. worker training
- 1969 – Milwaukee or New Ulm?
- 1990s – New Ulm or campus in Wisconsin?

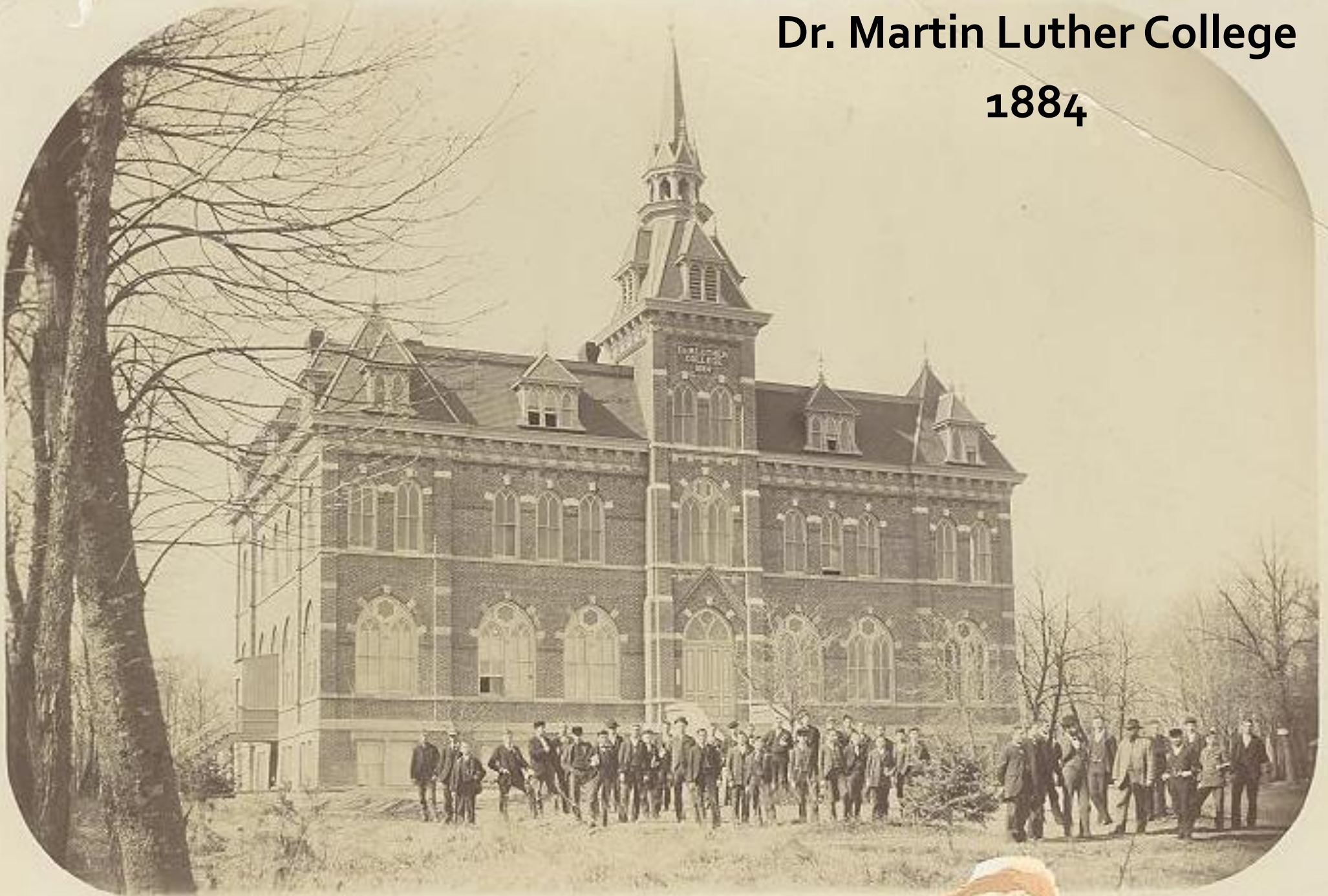
**Rev. C. J. Albrecht,
Founder of DMLC**

**Pres. – Minnesota Synod
1883-1894**

**Pastor of St. Paul's, New Ulm
1882-1924**



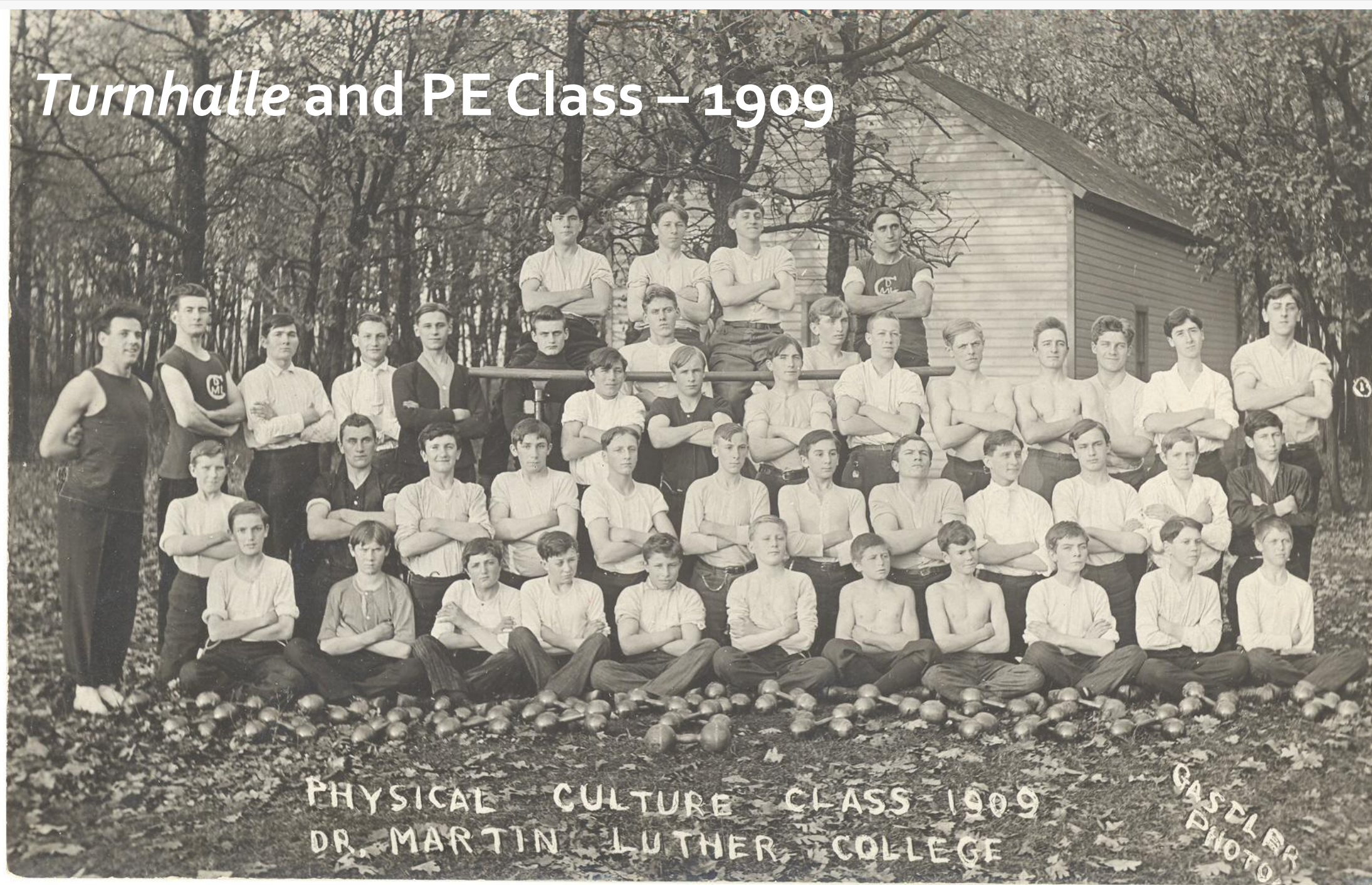
Dr. Martin Luther College
1884





**“Old Main”—
a variety of
uses**

Turnhalle and PE Class – 1909



PHYSICAL CULTURE CLASS 1909
DR. MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

GASTLER
PHOTO

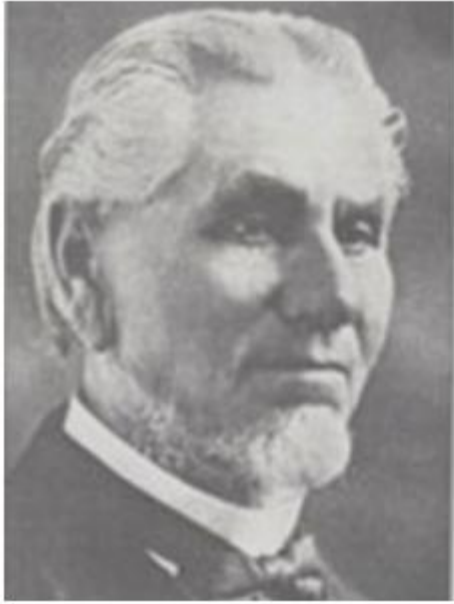
Curriculum/Programs/Departments

- 1884 – three-year preparatory; four-year academic program (“college” = higher education)
- 1885 – theological department
- 1887 – normal department
- 1893 – three-year preparatory; two normal classes (academic program retained)
- 1903 – fourth preparatory year added
- 1928 – third normal year added
- 1954 – first four-year BS Ed. degrees awarded

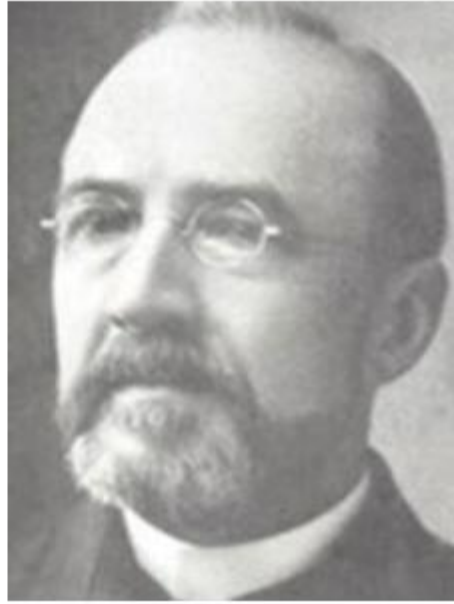
1916-17 Catalog statement of purpose: "The Teachers' Seminary of Dr. Martin Luther College at New Ulm, Minn., was organized in 1893 under a resolution of the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and other States. ...The organization of the Seminary was prompted by the necessity of supplying Lutheran parochial schools in the Northwest with competent teachers, and this consideration primarily governs the selection of branches to be taught, and the determination of the ends to be attained."

The 1916-17 Catalog continues: “At the same time, the courses of our lower classes are so arranged that they afford preparatory training fully equal to that offered in classical colleges. Three preparatory collegiate classes and the Freshman class have been established.... These classes constitute a excellent high-school [*sic*] where young people find an opportunity of perfecting their general education.”

DMLC Presidents



C. J. Albrecht
1884-85



Otto Hoyer
1885-93



John Schaller
1893-1908



Adolf Ackermann
1908-18

DORMITORY OF ST. MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE
NEW ULM MINN.

35

Summit Hall
1911-12

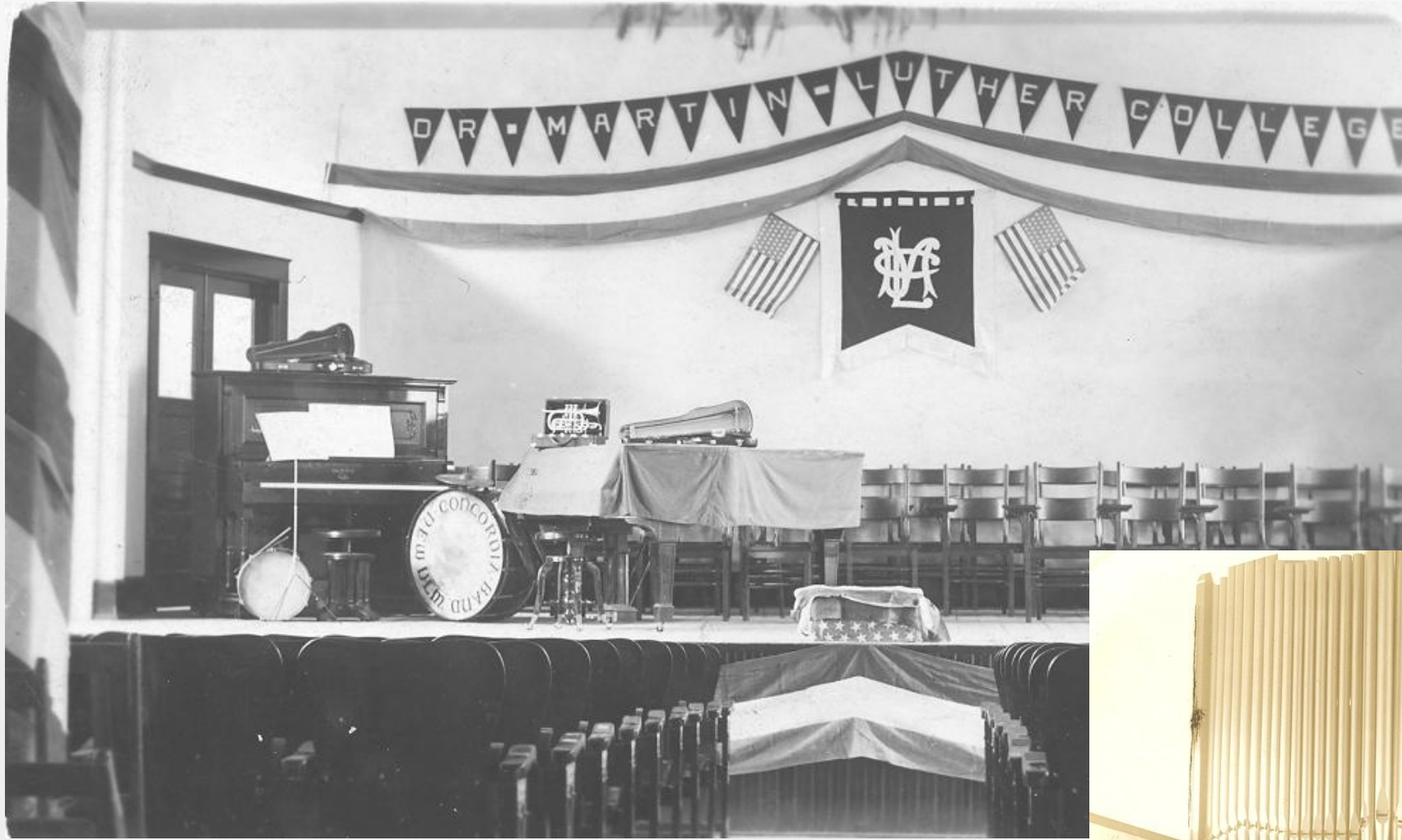




Dedication of the Aula (Music Hall & Chapel) in 1911



Fritz Reuter and the 1912 Male Choir



Stage of the Aula (Music Hall & Chapel)
1920s



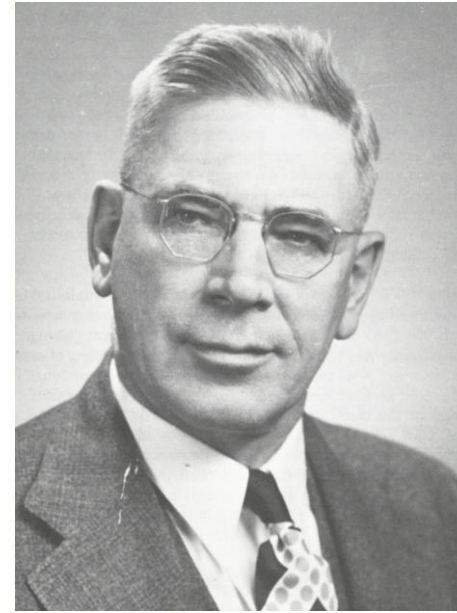
DMLC Presidents



Joh. P. Meyer
1918-20



E. Bliefernicht
1920-35



Carl Schweppe
1935-66



Conrad Frey
1966-80

DMLC, as such, did not operate as an autonomous church-related institution. It remained a school subsidized by the Synod, on property owned by the Synod, with instructors called by a synodically-elected governing board, for the purpose of training Lutheran teachers and preparatory training.

From the 75th anniversary catalog (1958-59): "The college department trains exclusively for the teaching ministry. Its graduates are specially prepared for the ministry of the Word in our Lutheran day schools."

Early 1900s Athletics



Dedication of the Recitation Hall – 1928





**Recitation
Hall**

**Gymnasium/
Auditorium**

1928

1932 Faculty Photo



Enrollment Fluctuations – campus-wide

- 1884 – 1900: between 50-100 students
- 1900 – 1920: average of 110 students
- mid-1920s: up to 260 students on campus
- mid-1930s: down to 125
- mid-1940s: up to 300
- 1955: first time over 500 (college – 211, high school – 293)
- 1979: 850 college only (high school moved to MLPS)
- 2000: 1000+ on-campus students (four straight years)
- 2025: 589 (final on-campus count)

Enrollment Fluctuations – factors

- Economic considerations
- “Supply-demand principle” as it relates to the need for called workers
- Political situations
- Public relations
- Adjustments in subsidy
- Alternative paths to ministry
- Side note: High school (preparatory) enrollment tended to supply the dominant number until the 1960s.



Dr. Martin Luther College Campus

aerial view
ca. 1930

A standard line included in many DMLC catalogs during the 20th century: “Through the first twelve years of its existence, training at Dr. Martin Luther College was open only to male students. The school has been co-educational since 1896, when the demand for women teachers compelled the Synod also to admit women.”



Hillcrest Hall

(on the present
location of the Library
building)



Bode Hall (below Hermann Park)

Housing for Women



West Hall
1945



Centennial Hall
1950

Housing for Women

1962 Special Convention

1. Where should synod locate teacher training?
2. How could they improve or expand its limited, crowded facilities?
3. How could they have a steady flow of qualified teachers?
4. How could the school be accredited?



**Music Center
1961-62**



Hillview Hall 1964

(today known as
Augustana Hall)



Dorm Setting – Hillview Hall

(today known as
Augustana Hall)



Student Union & Gymnasium

1967-68

**Gymnasium/
Auditorium**

**Remodeled to
present
Auditorium**

1967-68





South Side Classroom Addition to Academic Center

1967-68

Dr. Martin Luther College Campus

aerial view
early 1970s

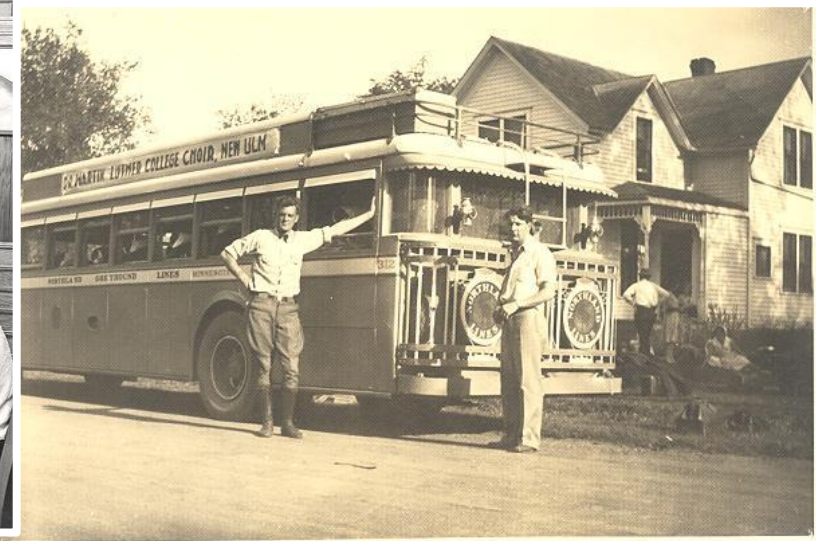
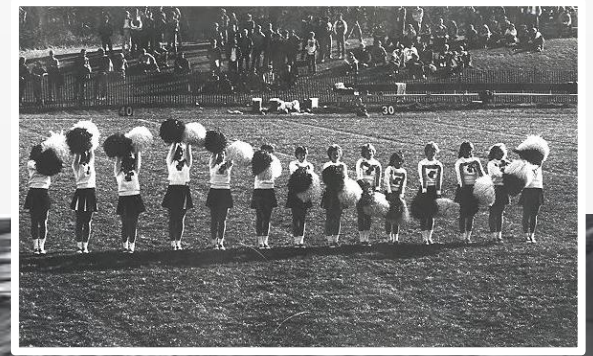




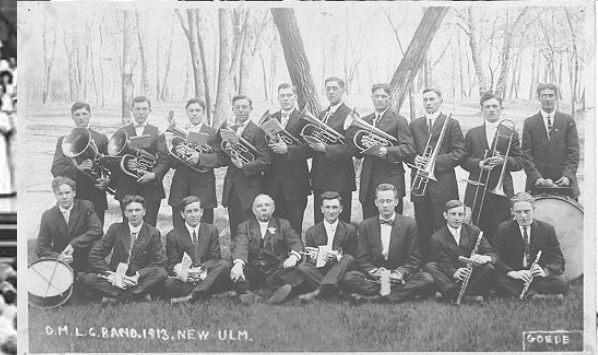
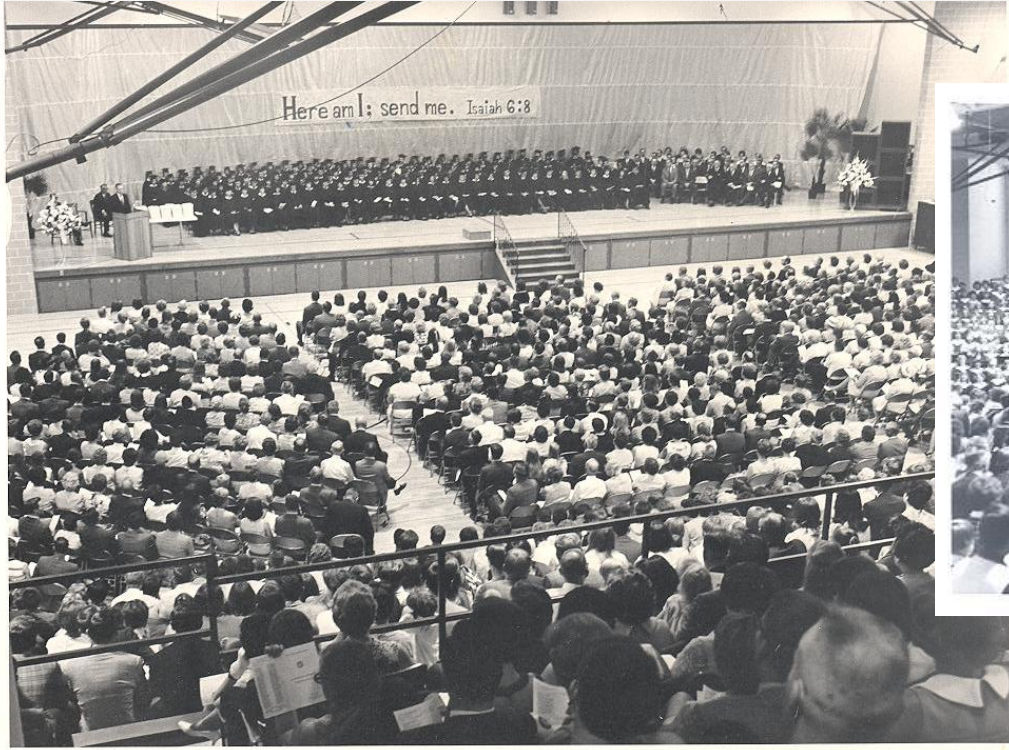
Library

1971

Student Life – the DMLC years....



Bands ... Concerts ... Graduations....



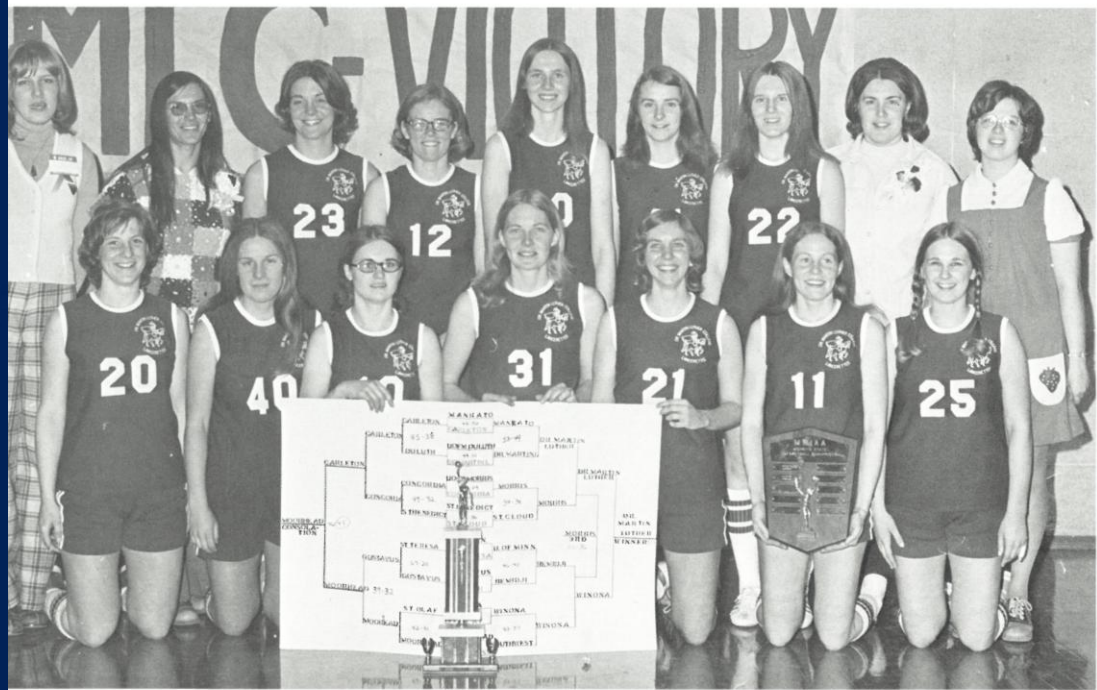
| WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------|
| "A" Team | | OPPONENT |
| DMLC | | |
| 38 | St Olaf | 30 |
| 44 | U. of Minnesota | 37 |
| 56 | Mankato State | 41 |
| 24 | Mankato State | 41 |
| 33 | Concordia, St. Paul | 35 |
| 39 | Southwest State | 43 |
| 44 | St. Cloud State | 27 |
| 45 | Winona State | 44 |
| 42 | Southwest State | 41 |
| 55 | Gustavus | 44 |
| "B" Team | | |
| DMLC | | |
| 38 | Mankato State | 34 |
| 34 | Mankato State | 29 |
| 44 | Viterbo | 39 |
| 46 | Winona State | 30 |
| 46 | St. Benedict | 32 |
| STATE TOURNAMENT | | |
| DMLC | | OPPONENT |
| 49 | U. of M. — Duluth | 31 |
| 53 | Mankato State | 49 |
| 45 | U. of M. — Morris | 34 |
| 41 | Winona State | 39 |
| REGION 6 TOURNAMENT | | |
| DMLC | | OPPONENT |
| 41 | Kansas State | 62 |
| 35 | Wayne State | 71 |
| 61 | Mt. Marty | 64 |

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lancerettes
win Minnesota
championship

DMLC's Lancerettes were the talk of the town after winning the state title February 23. The season started and ended in victory sweeps. The "B" squad also wound up a terrific season by earning it's own 5-0 record in tournaments. Throughout the 1973-'74 season, the Lancerettes were a team DMLC could support proudly.

DMLC Women's
Basketball
success
1974

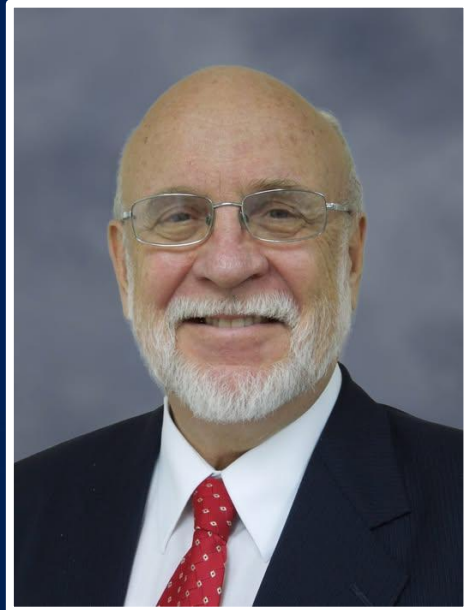


Women's Basketball Team — FRONT ROW: J. Frank, G. Douglas, B. Leopold, G. Lohmiller, K. Deines, C. Bauer, L. Luedtke. BACK ROW: Mgr. K. Loeffler, Asst. Coach L. Vlasak, K. Kelly, C. Landry, K. Wilsman, P. York, J. Wade, Coach S. Post, Mgr. J. Breiling.

DMLC Presidents

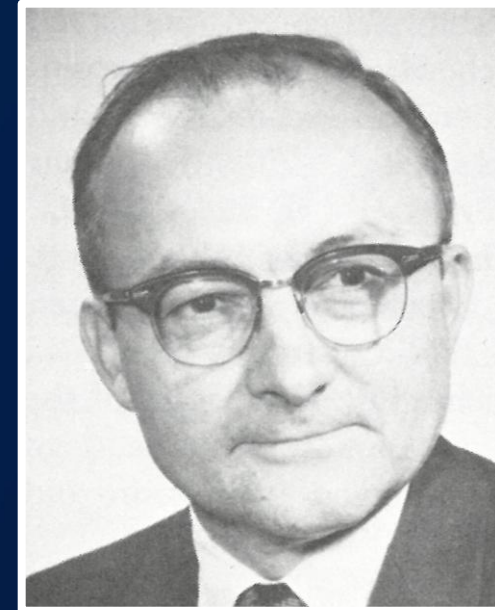


Lloyd Huebner
1980-1993



John Lawrenz
1993-1995

DMLHS/MLA President



O. J. Siegler
1963-79

Library South Addition

1986



Changes after “College Campus” only

- 1979 – Prep school moved to MLPS in Prairie du Chien, WI
- 1988 – Secondary Teacher Education Program
- 1991 – Staff Ministry program at DMLC
- 1995 – Amalgamation of Northwestern College with Dr. Martin Luther College into Martin Luther College (education studies, pre-seminary studies, staff ministry program)
- 2005 – Master’s Degree program
- 2025 – APPLE program (non-traditional licensure)



The “Link”

(view from
the north
side)

The
“Link”

1995

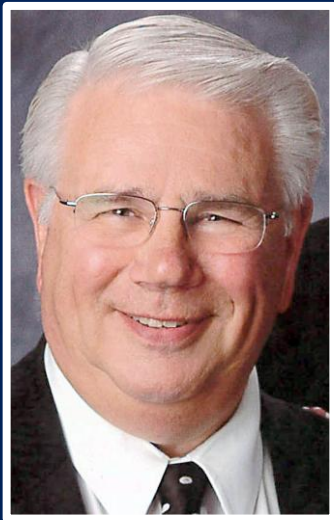


1995 Faculty Photo



The mission of Martin Luther College is to train men and women to meet the public ministry needs of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and to proclaim the Word of God faithfully and in accord with the Lutheran Confessions in the Book of Concord. To fulfill this mission, Martin Luther College carries out all instruction and programs of student life according to the gospel as revealed in the inspired and inerrant Word of God.

MLC Presidents



Theodore Olsen
1994-2007



Mark Zarling
2007-2020



Richard Gurgel
2020-present

Chapel of the Christ

2009



Home-coming Worship Service



Early Childhood Center 2013



The Campus

ca. 2010



Monuments



Covid Realities 2020-2021





**The Betty Kohn
Fieldhouse –
aka “The Betty”**

2022

Football Camp for Kids in "The Betty"

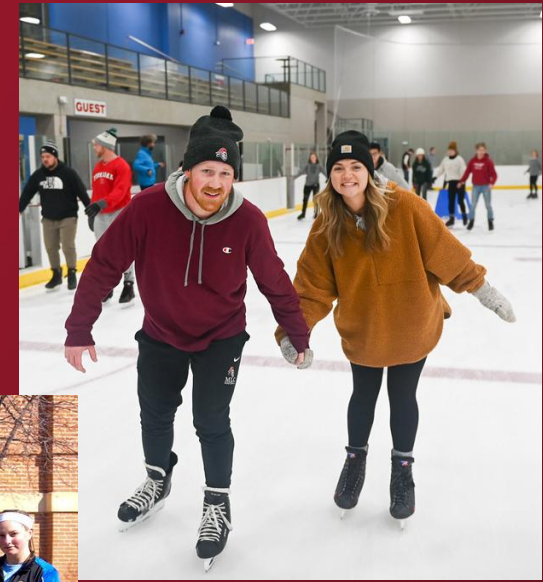


MLC Athletics Today





Campus Activities – MLC





HERE
I AM

Masters Degree Program

Online Certification







"Old Main" Today







Winter Walk

Via
Veritas
Vita



