

# LUTHER COLLEGE

Greetings from the campus of Luther College! I am pleased to submit this 2017 Synod Assembly report as a way to connect with you, the college's extended community. At Luther, students discern their vocations and prepare for their careers in a college community committed to the life of faith and learning. We count on your partnership in this important work.

We welcomed a new campus pastor in August 2016, when the Rev. Anne Edison-Albright joined Pastor Mike Blair in Luther's College Ministries program. Pastor Edison-Albright brings gifts as a preacher, educator and writer to her ministry in the Luther community as well as a deep commitment to the witness of the church in the world. From 2010-16, she served as pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and in 2014, she was awarded the Beatitudes Society's J. Philip Swander Brave Preacher Award.

College pastors are available to all within the Luther community for conversation, reflection, vocational discernment and counseling. At the core of College Ministries is the Luther College Student Congregation. The student congregation elects a council each year who work in partnership with the college pastors to provide a rich range of ministries and opportunities for students to explore their faith, build community and discern their particular gifts and calling for leadership and service.

In February, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton delivered our spring convocation address and launched the college's yearlong commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. One of this year's highlights will be a two-day conference, *Liberating Grace: The Power of the Reformation in the World Today*, held March 31-April 1 on the Luther campus. The conference will address the Reformation's continuing impact on the church as it interacts with the wider world and will feature workshops, seminars and two prominent keynote speakers – ELCA pastor and best-selling author Nadia Bolz-Weber and Ralston Deffenbaugh, assistant general secretary for international affairs and human rights for the Lutheran World Federation.

We have wonderful events planned for fall semester as well. In late October, Luther alumnus and renowned composer of church music, Marty Haugen '73, will lead a Reformation hymn festival, and the college will host a symposium, *The Reformation of Everything, 1517-2017*, that focuses on the Reformation's impact on Western history and thought. I hope you will join us on campus for these special events. A full schedule is available at [luther.edu/reformation-2017](http://luther.edu/reformation-2017).

One tangible way your church can support Luther College is to encourage your high school students to visit campus. Should they choose to enroll, we hope you will consider supporting them with an EPIC grant (Education Partners in Covenant). Luther will match up to \$1,000 per year in support of each student from your congregation. More information can be found at [luther.edu/financialaid/current/scholarships](http://luther.edu/financialaid/current/scholarships).

I am convinced that a community of faith and learning provides the best possible environment for young people to discern their callings. Thank you for your prayers, your support, and for encouraging high school students to look closely at all that an ELCA college like Luther offers.

Sincerely,



Paula J. Carlson, Ph.D.  
President