

LUTHER COLLEGE

Greetings from Luther College in the beautiful Driftless region of northeastern Iowa!

This 2021-2022 academic year has been one of renewed energy and celebration of the gifts of the Luther College community. We are grateful for the dedicated, thoughtful, and conscientious group of leaders who continue to monitor and manage our Covid-19 response. Because of their leadership, and because of the campus-wide shared commitment to healthy practices, we have been able to resume a fuller schedule of on-campus in-person events, from athletic events to Christmas at Luther to admissions events to our thriving Center Stage Series.

In fall of 2021, we hosted multiple homecoming weekend events, including a special in-person Commencement Celebration for the class of 2020. This spring, our music ensembles were able to resume touring. Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra, Concert Band, and Collegiate Choral toured a variety of locations in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Nordic Choir performed during February's American Choral Directors Association regional conference in Chicago and toured the Midwest in May. We hope some of you were able to attend one of these events.

We are happy to share with you that Luther College has received a NetVUE Reframing the Institutional Saga grant of nearly \$40,000 to prepare and publish a collection of essays that explore the college's identity as a Norwegian-Lutheran liberal arts college. The grant began in February of this year and runs through January 2024, when the anthology will be published and made available to the public.

We are also grateful to the many friends and alumni who helped us raise more than \$1 million for a major renovation of the Sports and Recreation Center, part of our campus athletic complex. Along with the renovation project comes the commemorative naming of spaces to honor Luther coaches who have made a lifetime of impact on their student-athletes.

The Office for College Ministries welcomed Pastor Melissa Bills as its new Director for College Ministries and College Pastor at the beginning of this academic year. College Ministries continues to sustain weekday chapel and special event worship services, as well as to support the ongoing spiritual needs of Luther's entire campus community - students, staff, faculty, and alumni/emeriti. A new student Council for Faith and Life has been convened as a way for students to more deeply engage with intersections of faith and learning and to serve as faith and justice leaders on campus.

We encourage you (and your high school students) to visit the Luther College campus and the Decorah, Iowa community. Please help spread the word that in addition to offering a series of Church Leadership Scholarships, Luther College participates in the EPIC (Educational Partners in Covenant) grant program, which matches up to \$1000 per year in support of each student from your congregation.

Luther College, like many congregations, communities, and institutions, has been challenged to show enormous flexibility and resilience during these last years. We remain committed to providing students a supportive, faith-grounded environment of academic excellence where they can learn, grow, and discern. We look to the future with great hope and possibility, focusing our energy on values of stewardship, integration, and adaptability, recognizing our mission as being both grounded and global. Thank you for your prayers and support for Luther College. We are grateful for your partnership.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Dr. Jenifer K. Ward
Luther College President