

# SNAPSHOT

Spring 2023



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"How are we going to start 100 new missions in 10 years when we have over 150 pastoral vacancies already?" As a person who serves at a ministerial education school, I have heard that question more than a few times since the initiative was approved at the 2021 WELS convention. The question does not doubt the need to establish new missions to reach the lost. On that we are all united for we know the truth of Jesus' words, "The harvest is plentiful..."

"...but the workers are few." That's the concern when the question is asked. We want to start new missions! We want to establish congregations of saints in places that we currently don't have any so that the gospel can be unleashed and lives can be saved. But each one of those new missions needs a pastor to shepherd them. And so do the established congregations that are concerned that a new mission start will be approved and staffed while their congregation remains vacant.

That's a real tension. What do we do? Do we suspend ambitious goals of reaching lost souls in places that seem ripe for the harvest? Or do we take a pen and put the writing on the wall for congregations that are struggling that it may be their time to consider different ways to carry out their ministry?

Let's start somewhere else. "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field." Knowing that the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective, pastors, pray for workers in your corporate worship. The prayer will be effective, and the congregation has this tension on their mind. Teachers, as you open and close your school days with prayer, incorporate a plea to the Lord to fill those harvest fields. Praying with you is a potential army of gospel heralds who can be sent into the harvest fields. Christian, include this tension in your own personal prayers as the Lord Jesus invites our prayers for more workers.

And then encourage. In this Spring *Snapshot* you will see many ways that MLS is encouraging our students to use their gifts in the service of their King. MLS Project Titus trips are planned and almost 25% of our student body will travel this summer to mission-minded congregations to participate in evangelistic ministries. Theater performances are equipping our students to use their gifts for public speaking. Athletic teams that are enjoying great success this year are teaching the importance of working together as a team. Those and so many other things make this place a petri dish of ministry encouragement.

Thank you for encouraging your young people to consider the full-time public ministry of the gospel. Maybe that encouragement will be blessed by God to be pastor #100 of our goal to establish new missions while also providing workers for current harvest fields.

Loving and serving Him,

Rev. Mark Luetzow, President



## WAKEFIELD WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Senior, Evan Wakefield (St. Bartholomew, Kawkawlin), did something this past winter that hasn't been done at MLS since 1981. He was crowned the 190lb MHSAA wrestling state champion!

He defeated the defending state champion in the championship match and finished the season with a record of 54-1!

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY



PROJECT  
TITUS

- Messiah, Johns Creek, GA - June 5-12
- Living Savior, Asheville, NC - June 17-26
- Camp Shiloh, Dallas, TX - June 17-24
- Northdale Tampa, FL - June 17-25
- Jerusalem, Morton Grove, IL - July 8-17
- Cross of Christ, Las Cruces, NM - July 8-17
- Hope, Toronto, CAN - July 15-23

## SCHOLAR ATHLETE FINALISTS

Each year MLS nominates 2 girls and 2 boys for Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Awards. Thirty-two student-athletes win a \$2,000 scholarship.

To be eligible for the award, students must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.50 and previously have won a varsity letter in at least one sport. Students also were asked to respond to a series of short essay questions, submit two letters of recommendation and a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics. This year, 1,440 applications were received.

Since the 1989-90 school year MLS has had one winner of this award, Andy Glende, in 1996. It is very rare to even have a finalist.

This year we were blessed to have two of our seniors be named a finalist! Caleb Munson (Cross of Glory, Washington) and Gabriella Wenzel (St. Paul's, Livonia)! We are very proud of everything they have accomplished both academically and athletically!



**CALEB**  
Munson



**GABRIELLA**  
Wenzel

## WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

On top of a state champion wrestler, MLS has been blessed with much team success this school year! The boys' cross country team took home the regional championship in the fall. This winter, both the boys' and girls' basketball teams won district titles. This was the 1st time since 2012 both teams won titles in the same year!



Boys' Basketball



Girls' Basketball



Boys' Cross Country

## CHILDREN'S THEATER ON THE GO

MLS presented Camelot & Camelittle as the 2023 Children's Theater production. Over 750 grade school students attended three performances. Director Kaylee Swanson was excited that a record 51 students auditioned for various roles! Another highlight of the show was senior Gabby Sayles (Good Shepherd, Burton), who landed her first lead role. Finally, Children's Theater took the show on the road to Zion in Monroe, MI, so that our friends to the south could enjoy the show without as much of a drive. You're always invited to come watch any of the MLS Theater performances - just keep your eye on our calendar or Facebook page and remember that seats go fast!



**JUNE**  
11-12

**GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL**  
GRADES 5-9

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL**  
GRADES 5-9

**JUNE**  
12-14



**JUNE**  
14-16

**BOYS' FOOTBALL**  
GRADES 7-9

**FATHER/SON FOOTBALL**  
GRADES 3-6

**JUNE**  
17



**JUNE**  
18-20

**BOYS' BASKETBALL**  
GRADES 5-9

**FINE ARTS**  
GRADES 3-6

**JUNE**  
21-22



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**WELS**  
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

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