

LUTHER COLLEGE®

Luther College inspires and equips students to courageously serve the common good through a holistic education in the liberal arts.

Greetings and prayers from Luther College and from our home here in Decorah, Iowa. We are pleased to again share with you some reflections about our campus life and work from this past year.

Last summer, after an intentional period of reflection and discernment, we adopted a new mission statement (included above), an accompanying constellation of vision and identity statements, and a foundational set of core values: Community, Curiosity, Excellence, Inclusivity, Sustainability. We remain in a season of re-engaging our campus, alumni, and community with the essential and profound pieces of our identity as a liberal arts college, founded by Norwegian immigrants, in the Lutheran Christian tradition, with a vocation to serve the common good.

We hosted a series of high-profile events on campus in this past year, each of which connected us in particular ways to our identity and mission. In April 2025, we welcomed travel author and historian Rick Steves to campus for an address that highlighted themes of global citizenship, lifelong learning, and bridge-building through curiosity, compassion, and the value of human dignity.

Homecoming Weekend in October was bookended by two significant campus gatherings. First, a presidential inauguration, themed “For the Common Good” to honor the intersections of faith, learning, and vocation that define our college’s identity. Just a few days later, we hosted a celebration convocation to welcome the visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway. His remarks highlighted our Norwegian relationships and emphasized the immense value and power of education to shape societies.

This January, we were thrilled to welcome Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry as our annual Martin Luther King, Jr. day lecturer, and were blessed by his remarks encouraging us to lean into our faith to find the courage to seek justice and to stand with the vulnerable.

We feel blessed and enriched by this year of learning from these key figures in our nation, church, and world. In addition to these significant visits, we continue to take joy and pride in our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and local partners—both for their accomplishments and for their character.

Luther College has been awarded the 2026 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization from the National Association of International Educators (NAFSA), honoring our long-standing commitment to making global learning opportunities accessible and impactful to students.

The Luther College Concert Band traveled to Japan for a series of performances last June, Luther College Symphony Orchestra alumni and friends gathered for the inaugural Dorian Orchestra Reunion weekend in July, and the Luther College Nordic Choir traveled the Midwest and Southeastern United States for their annual concert tour in early 2026.

The Office for College Ministries received a two-year, \$40,000 grant from the Network for Vocation in Higher Education to establish a new student internship program in fall 2025 entitled *Called Outward: Exploring Skills for Faith-Based Leadership*. This program connects students with area congregations for focused discernment, exploration, and experiential learning around core skills and topics in ministry.

We continue to give thanks for the immense generosity of our Luther College community, across the nation and world. Our 2026 annual Giving Day raised nearly \$1.4 million to support and enhance the Luther experience at the college through the Luther Fund, Luther's unrestricted current fund that supports all students, faculty, staff and community endeavors on campus. This is in addition to our annual One Team day, which raised nearly \$600,000 in a 24-hour span to support student-athletes, as well as all of the donors who have contributed to our \$24 million Gerdin Fieldhouse renovation project, which is in its final stages.

This past year for Luther College has been a time to lean deeply into our calling to seek, serve, and nurture the common good, both in our campus life and in the world beyond. It is a privilege to serve on behalf of this campus community. Together, we share a vision for the power of learning, faith, and service to shape and heal the world.

Soli Deo Gloria!
President Brad Chamberlain
Pastor Melissa Bills