The Knight Light

SUMMER 2026

Honoring Christ...Welcoming All

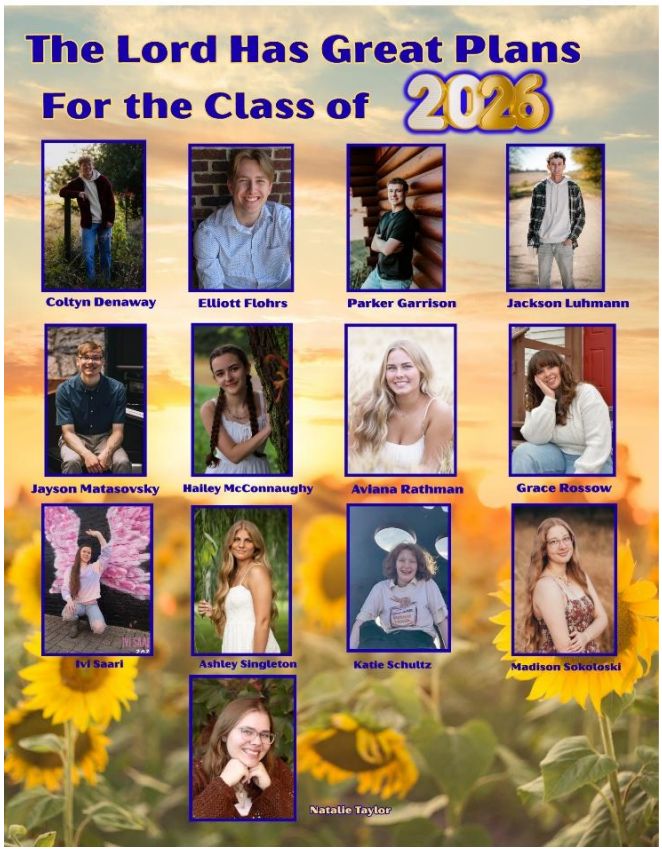
Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School, Northrop, MN

www.martinlutherhs.com

Join our FB Group
Martin Luther High School,
(Northrop, MN)

Eighth grade students received their diplomas at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Truman on May 19. They are ready for the next step in their educational journey. Pictured front: Junior High Teacher Teresa Kiehl, Natalia Sanchez, Abbygail Kitzerow, Kinnick Hardt, Samuel Lawrence. Row 2: Harper Armbrust, Peyton Stohs, Alexander Egeness, Aiden Lightfoot. Row 3: Ethan Odegaard, Preston Redenius, Boe Kolbe, Oakley Bohlsen, Principal David Stuckwisch.

The Senior Class threw their hats into the sky in celebration of receiving their diplomas on May 24.



Imagine

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him." — 1 Corinthians 2:9

Imagine. It is a simple word, but it can take us to some pretty incredible places. As Christians, we are reminded that there are things we simply cannot imagine. We cannot fully imagine what heaven will be like. We cannot imagine what it will be like to stand in the presence of our Savior. We cannot imagine the perfection of a place where there is no sin, no suffering, no pain, no death, and no tears. Our minds are limited by what we know and experience here in this world. And yet, God has prepared something far greater than anything we could imagine. That is an incredible promise.

But I also think the word *imagine* is appropriate as we begin another year at Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School. What could God have in store for this school? What could Martin Luther look like five years from now? Ten years from now? What could happen if we continue to grow, improve, dream, and work together while keeping our eyes fixed on Christ?

There are many things happening at Martin Luther right now. We are making improvements to our school and our facilities. We are looking at ways to expand our course offerings and provide more opportunities for our students. We are working toward growth and looking at what our school can become in the years ahead. Those things are exciting, and I believe we should be excited about them. But they cannot become the main thing.

The main thing has always been, and must always remain, Jesus Christ.

Our mission is to prepare students for discipleship until Christ's return. That mission is bigger than a building. It is bigger than enrollment numbers. It is bigger than athletic success, academic achievement, music programs, technology, or any other measure we might use to describe a successful school.

Those things matter. We want to do them well. We want our students to have excellent opportunities and our school to be a place where they can grow and thrive. But ultimately, we are here because we believe that Jesus Christ died and rose again for our students, our families, our faculty and staff, and our entire community. We are here to tell that story.

And perhaps that is where *Imagine* becomes especially meaningful. We can imagine what Martin Luther might become, but we cannot know exactly what God has planned. We can make plans, set goals, build programs, improve our facilities, welcome new families, and work toward growth. But ultimately, the future belongs to God.

That does not mean we sit back and wait. It means we work faithfully while trusting Him with the results.
I am excited about what is happening at Martin Luther. I am excited about the possibilities ahead of us. I am excited about the opportunity to continue building a school that serves our students well and reaches more families with the Gospel. But more than anything, I am excited about what God can do through this place.

Perhaps there is a student who will walk through our doors this year who will someday serve the Church in ways none of us could imagine. Perhaps there is a teacher who will have an impact on a student that will last for decades. Perhaps there is a conversation in a classroom, a chapel message, a Bible study, a mission trip, an athletic practice, or a simple moment in the hallway that God will use to strengthen someone's faith. We may never know the full impact.

And that is okay. Because we don't need to know everything God has planned. We simply need to remain faithful to what He has called us to do.

So, as we begin this school year, I invite you to imagine with us. Imagine a school that continues to grow while remaining firmly rooted in God's Word. Imagine classrooms filled with students who are challenged to think, learn, serve, and lead. Imagine teachers who see their work not simply as a job, but as a calling to serve young people. Imagine families working together with the school to raise up a generation of young Christians who know and love their Savior. Imagine what God might do through Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School.

And then remember this: whatever we can imagine, God's plans are still greater. Because as Paul reminds us, *"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him."*

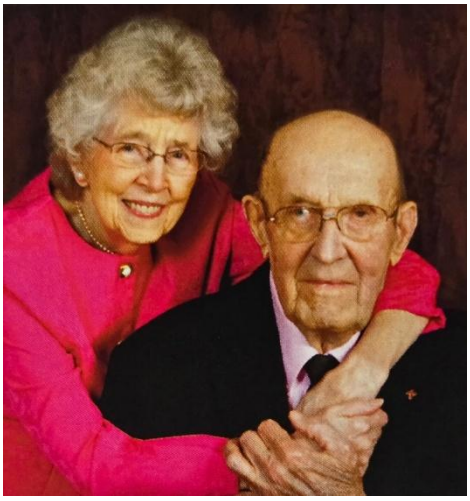
We don't know exactly what God has prepared for Martin Luther. We don't know exactly what He has prepared for our students. And we certainly cannot imagine the glory that awaits us in heaven. But we do know the One who holds it all in His hands. And that is more than enough.

I can't wait to see what God has in store.

Imagine.
In Christ,

Principal David Stuckwisch

2026-2027 Student Body and Staff Gather in the Air-Conditioned Gym to say, “Thank You!”



GIVING BEYOND YOUR LIFETIME

God gives each of us unique gifts and resources that can be used to bless His kingdom for generations. Through faithful stewardship, our lives can have an eternal impact beyond what we could ever imagine. The following story shares the remarkable legacy of a Christian couple whose generosity continues to strengthen Lutheran school ministries long after they entered their heavenly home. Their example reminds us that the blessings God gives us today can become blessings for countless others tomorrow.

Milton August William Fricke was born on his family farm in Heron Lake Township, Jackson County, Minnesota on August 9, 1925. He attended Immanuel Lutheran School through eighth grade. Milton served in the Army during World War II in the Pacific Theatre. He was stationed overseas for a little over two years; while there he survived two bouts of malaria and was wounded on June 13, 1945 by a mortar shell. After his service to his country, he was united in marriage to Dorothy Rentschler on June 27, 1948 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Rost Township.

Dorothy Alice (Rentschler) Fricke was born on Thursday, September 1, 1927 on the family farm in Rost Township, Jackson County, Minnesota. Dorothy was baptized and confirmed at St Paul Lutheran Church of Rost Township. She attended parochial grade school at St Paul Lutheran, graduated high school from Lakefield in 1945, and attended Mankato Teachers College, graduating in 1947. She taught for several years both in public and parochial schools.

Together Milton and Dorothy made a life on the Fricke farm in Hunter township, Jackson County, Minnesota. Both were actively involved in their church, the Lutheran schools and the community.

Milton and Dorothy Fricke exemplified a life of joy in the Lord and a deep love for one another. Although they never had children of their own, they had a special place in their hearts for young people and wanted future generations to experience the blessings of a Lutheran education.

Their first recorded gift to Martin Luther Jr./Sr. High School came on June 15, 1998, when they donated $50 to the school's general operating fund. Just five months later, they gave $600 to help pay a student's tuition.

Believing that young people needed to see the comforting truth that Jesus is always with them, the Fricke’s donated $330 in April 1999 to purchase a framed, signed limited-edition print by Christian artist Chris Hopkins entitled “Peace, Be Still.” The artwork portrays Jesus calming the storm while frightened teenagers ride in the boat with Him. Given in honor of Milton and Dorothy's 50th wedding anniversary, the print has hung in the MLHS hallway ever since, quietly reminding students that Christ is with them through every storm of life.

Over the next two decades, Milton and Dorothy became treasured friends of the school. They visited often, sitting in the lobby hand in hand, sharing jokes with the staff, and delighting in watching students come and go. They faithfully attended benefit dinners and school events, and from 1998 through 2018 they donated a total of $23,293.18 to support the ministry of Martin Luther Jr./Sr. High School. Year after year, they also gave generous gifts to help provide tuition assistance for students.

Milton was called home to heaven on December 14, 2014. Dorothy joined her Savior—and Milton—on January 16, 2021.

At the time, no one realized that their faithful generosity would continue blessing students long after they were gone through the Christ-centered wisdom of planned giving.

The story took an unexpected turn in February 2025. Bruce Abitz of Gemini Studios and Nick Cress of Cress Refrigeration approached MLHS with the idea of raising funds to install air conditioning in the school gymnasium. After an exceptionally hot volleyball season and an uncomfortable graduation ceremony, the need was obvious. Bruce and Nick generously offered to underwrite the cost of bringing nationally known Christian comedian, Brad Stine, to perform at MLHS, with all proceeds designated for the air conditioning project.

While the Board of Directors deeply appreciated their generosity, they felt that asking donors to fund a project exceeding $100,000 was too ambitious so soon after completing the school's parking lot project. Bruce and Nick then suggested holding the event anyway, with the proceeds supporting the school's operating budget instead. The Board agreed, and the evening raised nearly $4,000 for the ministry. The gym air conditioning project was placed on the back burner.

Less than a year later, God revealed that He already had a plan.

In January 2026, a representative of the Milton and Dorothy Fricke Charitable Trust contacted MLHS Development Director Marge Thiesse to ask whether the school had any significant projects or needs that the Trust might consider supporting. Needless to say, a detailed list was quickly prepared. After reviewing the requests, the Trust Board made an extraordinary decision. They chose to fund the entire gym heating and air conditioning project—an investment of approximately $132,000. Contracts were awarded to Cress Refrigeration & Cooling of Fairmont, County Line Electric of Truman, and North Cedar Concrete of Trimont. The project is now complete and came in UNDER budget!

Although Milton and Dorothy are now with their Lord, their legacy continues to bless countless students. Because they faithfully planned beyond their lifetimes, generations of young people will benefit from a more comfortable environment for worship services, athletic events, concerts, graduations, and countless other activities.

Their story is a beautiful reminder that God can multiply the blessings of faithful stewardship far beyond what we can imagine. Even after His servants are called home, the gifts He enabled them to share continue advancing His kingdom for years—and even centuries—to come.

HE WHO IS FAITHFUL IN LITTLE IS ALSO FAITHFUL IN MUCH

Laura Lange Kueker was born on August 6, 1934 to William F. Lange and Ella (Lupke) Lange. She was baptized on August 19, 1934 and confirmed on May 2, 1948 at St. John's Missouri Synod Lutheran Church of South Branch. She attended St. John's Parochial School in South Branch until the eighth grade. She then graduated from St. James High School in 1952. On October 20, 1985, Laura married Adolph Kueker also at St. John's Lutheran Church in South Branch, living on the farm and later moving to Truman.

Laura married Adolph at the age of 51 and they had no children. Throughout her life she was a consistent, faithful $5.00 donor to Martin Luther High School. She attended many of the fall benefit dinners and also volunteered at the school.

Laura passed away on April 3, 2026 at the age of 91.

Laura held the MLHS Ministry near and dear to her heart and considered the MLHS children as her own. Early this spring MLHS received an estate gift of $26,508.82 from her. Then in June we received a letter from First National Bank in St James notifying us that we were recipients of two Certificates of Deposits that Laura had left for MLHS. They totaled $22,159.54. All together she blessed MLHS with $48,668.36.

Laura Rose Kueker gave from her heart while she was alive and, upon her passing, her generosity blossomed to bless the MLHS Ministry in a tremendous way. She also remembered St John's Lutheran Church, South Branch and St Paul's Lutheran, Truman in her estate giving. May God bless the memory of Laura Rose Kueker.

To learn about ways you can bless MLHS, please contact Marge Thiesse

Phone: 507-436-5249

SURROUNDING STUDENTS WITH CHRISTIAN ROLE MODELS

Nick Gronewold, 2009, receives the 2026 MLHS Hall of Fame Inductee Award from Tom Taylor, Athletic Director.

Tom Taylor accepts the Martin Luther Award from Principal Stuckwisch for his service and devotion to the MLHS Ministry.

Principal Stuckwisch surprised Parker Garrison with the ML Servant Heart Award. He is the third student in ML history to receive this recognition.

The Lord blessed our search for a science teacher. Miss Elizabeth Knea has joined our staff. A 2025 graduate of Purdue University, she is an Engineering and Technology Educator. In addition to being passionate about science and math, Elizabeth has coached Robotics Club and is experienced in 3D Modeling/Printing. Elizabeth is an Eagle Scout and was involved in 4-H for 10 years. Coming to MLHS from Lake Country Lutheran High School in Hartland, WI, Elizabeth is thrilled to have her own science department. She is committed to Lutheran education and cherishes the opportunity to speak freely about the love of Christ and her faith.

Mrs. Paula M. Tietje is excited to engage students to learn Spanish. MLHS "discovered" Paula by looking right in our midst! A member of Immanuel Lutheran, Fairmont, Paula read the Gospel in Spanish to the congregation on Pentecost Sunday—which prompted us to ask her to join our staff. She comes to us with a wonderful amount of experience and enthusiasm.
Paula received her BA and Master's Degrees from MN State University, Mankato. While obtaining her undergraduate degree, she also took classes in San José, Costa Rica. She taught most recently in Blue Earth where she taught Spanish 1-4. Paula has been blessed with the opportunity to lead student travels to Spain, Costa Rica, and Puerto Rico. Paula retired from teaching a few years ago but is excited to get back into education, meet new students and engage them in activities of conversation.

Hayley (Koeritz) Luther '09 received her BA in Graphic Design from Concordia University, Nebraska. The program emphasized traditional illustration, so she got to experience a wide range of mediums, including drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, collage and even some woodworking. She has gone on art study tours to Paris, Amsterdam, Germany, and Spain. She loves art history, being able to experience it firsthand, and then sharing that appreciation with students. Hayley has worked as a graphic designer for the past 13 years. She's looking forward to being creative in new ways in the classroom. Starting her 10th year with the MLHS drama program, she's excited for the crossover learning opportunities. Hayley lives in Northrop with her husband, Paul, and two boys, Grant and Max.

MLHS welcomes Sarah Pfeffer to the MLHS team as our new Office Manager. Sarah and her husband, Josh, have three children—Hailey, Dylan, and Zachary. They live in rural St. James. As a family, they enjoy spending time outdoors, traveling, and making lasting memories at their family cabin. The Pfeffers are members of Salem Lutheran Church in Madelia. When she's not at work, Sarah enjoys curling up with a good book, spending time on the lake, and cheering on her favorite sports teams. Sarah brings a wealth of administrative experience and organizational skills to MLHS. We are thankful the Lord has led her to join our ministry and look forward to the many ways she will serve our students, families, and school community.

Diana Sargent, 2023, is returning to MLHS as a student teacher. She is a senior at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD. She is majoring in English and secondary education. Rebecca Oerman and Teresa Kiehl are her mentor teachers. Diana is a members St John's Lutheran Church in South Branch. Her hobbies include sewing, reading and cross-stitching. *"Being on the teaching side of education illustrates the care and concern MLHS teachers have for students."* says Diana. She hopes to teach high school English in this area. Diana is also involved as a volunteer in 4-H and enjoys working with students at the fair.

40th Annual Fall Rummage & Bake Sale

October 15—16—17, 2026.

Your help is essential to our success!
Please sign up on our website so we can plan.
Come when you can and leave when you wish!

Donations of fall & winter clothing in good condition, household misc will be accepted: Saturday, Oct 10th 10am-5pm Sunday, October 11th 1-5pm
Monday, October 12th & Tuesday, Oct 13th 8am-8pm

Sorting & pricing times are as follows:
Sat. 10am-5pm Sun. 1-5pm Mon., Tues., & Wed. 8am-8pm.
Noon lunch will be provided for workers Mon.-Wed.

The sale runs Thursday 4-8pm, Friday 8am-8pm, and Saturday 8am-noon.
We can also use workers during the sale.

Please save paper grocery bags for Saturday bag sale.
Baked Goods & Garden Produce are always popular and appreciated for the sale!

Questions? Please call MLHS at 507-436-5249 **www.martinlutherhs.com**

THANK YOU! Help is needed for:

Set-up on Sat., October 10th @ 8am & Take-down on Sat., October 17 @ Noon

The first rummage sale was in the fall of 1986 and was in the hallways of the school because the gym didn't exist. The men thought the women were nuts to try and have a rummage sale to raise money for the school. They raised $900.00. We give thanks for the first rummage volunteers who had this wonderful vision of turning "trash into treasures."

Over the years the rummage sales, now held in both the spring & fall, have become a big attraction with shoppers coming from hundreds of miles away. The Fall 2024 sale grossed $19,506.71 and in 2025 it took in $17,856.12. The 2024 Spring sale made $15,018.01 and in 2025 the total was $15,462.29. Leftover items are donated to several charities including Orphan Grain Train and Disabled America Veterans. Rummage Sale proceeds go into the PTL account. Members decide on special items and events that they will fund such as: $25,000 for the parking lot; $10,000 for new carpet; $2,000 for Jr Hi Chromebooks; $2,500 to Post Prom each year; $2,500 for Grandparents Day catering; $12,400 over 3 years for HUDL program for athletics; $1,000 for an Art Room Projector; $5,000 for Broadband set-up for new phones throughout the school; $1,000 for Arn Kind on History Day; $13,000 for floor scrubber & janitorial equipment; and $1,400+ to bring in a Christian speaker focusing on Dating and Relationships on Oct. 21, 2026.

All past, present and future friends of Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School are warmly invited to this FREE Dinner to celebrate your Lutheran high school.

***This event is replacing the $50/person "Mission Possible" Benefit Dinner that was a formal event with entertainment.**

All guests who R.S.V.P. by November 1st will be eligible for a drawing for tickets to the 2027 OH! What a KNIGHT! Dinner Auction, HyVee & Kwik Trip Gift cards, and other great prizes.

Enjoy a scrumptious dinner of smoked meats prepared by an army of dads and grandpas led by Principal David Stuckwisch. The meal will have an array of delicious sides, too!

Hear heartfelt testimony from MLHS founders, alumni, parents and future parents about why the MLHS Ministry is valuable and worthy of your support.

Let's fire up for MLHS!

Calling everyone—near and far! We invite you to bring a friend, bring a future parent, bring a new supporter.

Please invite a group to fill your table! Eight people at a table. We hope to fill 40 tables!

Register at www.martinlutherhs.com under the Special Events Tab on the right.

Oh! Give thanks to the LORD for He is good and His mercy endures FOREVER!

SUMMER 2026

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God's blessings be with:

Martin Luther
Jr/Sr High School

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Northrop, MN 56075
Phone: 507-436-5249
www.martinlutherhs.com

Honoring Christ
Welcoming All

New Students Always Welcome

Mission Statement

Preparing students for discipleship until Christ's return

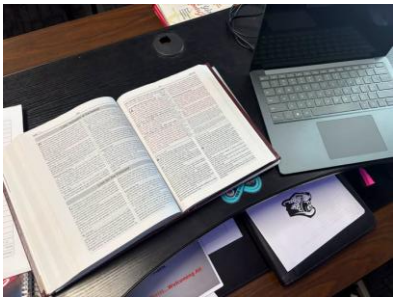
Vision Statement

Martin Luther JR./SR. High School is:

- **P**artnered with Families and Congregations
- **E**mpowered by the Gospel
- **A**cademically Accredited
- **C**hrist-Centered and Cross-Curricular
- **E**ngaged in Excellence

Please include the Martin Luther Ministry in your regular giving. The prayers and support of fellow Christians are vital to our ministry. Thank you!

GOD'S WORD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL WISDOM



On the principal's desk, in the curriculum and always a part of students' lives.

LIFTING ONE ANOTHER UP IN PRAYER

Signs on the lockers remind students that their teachers prayed for them by name each morning. Students also started a "Prayer Locker" to encourage each other to pray for each other.