

LUTHER COLLEGE

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

After three academic years heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, our students, faculty, and staff have spent the 2022-2023 academic year returning to many joyful activities that have long been deferred. It has been a year of energy, creativity, and celebration.

Luther College recognizes itself to be both grounded and global-grounded in its history, mission, and embeddedness in the local community; and global in its curriculum, student programming, and development of graduates who understand themselves as stewards of the global common good.

This fall, we honored our global connections by welcoming members of the Norwegian Parliament to campus and sending a delegation to Saint Paul, MN to meet Queen Sonja of Norway, and just a few weeks later, celebrated our (literal) groundedness by co-hosting an exhibition of a life-sized model of the six-foot long Decorah sea scorpion, *Pentecopterus decorahensis*, a fossil discovery from the Decorah Crater basin, which was formed by a meteor impact around 465 million years ago.

We are especially pleased to share that Luther College has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by more than 72% since its baseline was established twenty years ago, in 2003. Achieving this milestone puts the college on track to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. In addition, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education has named Luther College the fourth best baccalaureate institution in the nation for its efforts in sustainability, according to the 2022 Sustainable Campus Index.

Bringing together values of sustainability and service, more than 70 students, staff, and faculty participated in environmental conservation projects this fall as part of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. The Luther College Cafeteria to Community program, begun in 2014, marked a significant milestone in December, reaching 80,000 pounds of leftover food donated to local organizations to address hunger. In February, Luther College Ministries squared off against Wartburg College Ministries in a food drive competition, and the colleges combined collected more than 500 pounds of food and nearly \$2000 in donations.

Our Luther College baseball team made history this year by playing in the first collegiate game at the Field of Dreams in Dyersville, IA, welcoming more than 2000 attendees to this iconic location. In February, we celebrated with our men's and women's swimming and diving teams, each of them winning their second consecutive American Rivers Conference championship titles. Construction was completed on the Robert and Ann Naslund Sports and Recreation Center, a significant renovation and upgrade to our campus athletic complex.

This year has included a full slate of musical performances and performing arts offerings, including the Symphony Orchestra's three-week January residency in Vienna, Austria; Nordic Choir tour concerts in the southwest; and Concert Band tour concerts across the eastern midwest.

Recently, Luther has received several major gifts, totaling \$4.5 million, to help ensure that students have the financial resources they need to get the most out of their college experience. These gifts endow new scholarships for students with high financial need and for future educators and student musicians. These gifts also establish a new Peace Fellows program that seeks to engage students, faculty, and the broader community in how to practice peace in all of its dimensions. We are grateful for these gifts and for all donors who continue to support Luther College's mission.

Finally, a word about a few senior leadership transitions this year. After successful national searches, we welcomed Dr. Robert Clay as our new Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer and Special Assistant to the President for Community Engagement, and Mary Duvall as our new Vice President for Development. We also welcomed Dr. Bradley Chamberlain, Luther faculty and recent Vice President for Mission and Communication into his new role as Provost.

The Luther College community also remembers and celebrates the life of Richard "Rick" Torgerson, Luther's ninth president (1999-2013), who died on Oct. 30, 2022. A legendary figure in Luther history, he shaped the college in deep and meaningful ways that will resonate far into the future.

Luther College continues to be a thriving community of faith and learning. We are both deeply rooted in our history and our environment and also deeply committed to empowering and shaping our students to meet the future with hope, creativity, and wisdom.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for Luther College. We are grateful for your partnership.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Dr. Jenifer K. Ward
Luther College President