

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is an honor to be writing you on behalf of Carthage College and to be able to share with you about the mission and ministry happening on our campus. I have been in the role of Campus Pastor for a little over two years and assumed the role of Director of Congregational Relations in July of 2015. Since arriving we have established the Center for Faith and Spirituality (CFS) around the theme of “Hey, What’s your story?” with the goal of encouraging the students at Carthage to explore their own faith journey stories and to listen and learn from the stories of others. Chapel continues to be on Tuesday and this year marked the second year of both Interfaith Lunch on Thursdays and a Protestant worship service at 4pm on Sunday. The biggest change this academic year for the CFS is the addition of a student ministry leadership staff. We have paid student staff working in the areas of music, service, Lutheran Student Movement, Open Table (Wednesday night ministry), Roman Catholics at Carthage, Better Together (interfaith), Resident Hall Ambassadors, CUMBYA (Carthage Undergrads Making Big Youth Activities), and Public Relations. Student to student ministry is already making a difference as students become more comfortable exploring their faith and learning about the faith of others.

In my role as Director of Congregational Relations, I have been meeting with pastors in the Greater Milwaukee Synod and sharing what is happening at Carthage. It is wonderful to have the GMS Synod Assembly back on campus and I look forward to visiting other synods over the next several years. Part of my responsibility in this role is leading the committee working on our celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses. We are looking forward to reflecting on the Lutheran heritage of the college and to what it means to be a Lutheran in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century under the theme: Here I Stand.

There are many things to celebration at the Center for Faith and Spirituality and throughout the campus. Here are a few other highlights:

- ❖ 43 Million Dollar Science Center opened on September 9, 2015. Special features include technology-enhanced active learning classroom, a planetarium, an outdoor classroom just feet from Lake Michigan and interactive study space for students right outside faculty offices, so learning continues outside of class.
- ❖ Five students awarded Fulbright Fellowships and are now working towards international understand in Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, India and Germany.
- ❖ Bachelor of Science in Nursing accepted its first class of students this year with 23 prospective nursing majors. Male students make up more than one-third of the class.
- ❖ Carthage has a record incoming class with approximately 840 students from 19 U.S. states and five foreign countries.
- ❖ Carthage is awarded \$349K grant for internship funding over three years which will provide nearly 200 new, paid internships.
- ❖ Carthage ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation in study aboard opportunities. During January and June hundreds of Carthage students travel around the world to learn during these short term study aboard programs. Countries traveled too include: Germany, India, South Africa, Costa Rica, Honduras, France and more.
- ❖ Lady Red Volleyball team makes it to NCAA Final Four. It is a great group of young ladies who are a class act on and off the court.

Please keep Carthage in your prayers as we continue to strive towards helping a new generation find their callings in this world.

In Christ, Pastor Kara F. Baylor