Note from the Editor
Hanna Dodd ’21

Christmas at Luther was magical this year, as it always is. Although my friends who were in it probably got less sleep the week before than they might have wanted, their performance left me breathless. I hope many of you had the chance to see it. The set (modeled after a cathedral's stained glass windows), the song selection, and the sense of community during the concert were truly lovely. But most beautiful to me were the words. That might sound unsurprising coming from an English major, but the words that hundreds of students were singing in unison were truly magnificent. Whether they knew it or cared, the choirs were singing about God and God’s love. The students were praising a God they may not know or believe in. But my hope is that those words they were required to memorize and practice countless times might sink into their heads and make them wonder about this God they’re singing about and why there are so many beautiful songs about Him. For this and so many other reasons, the Christmas at Luther concert was truly a blessing.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about this month's Parent Newsletter, I encourage you to contact us at parentnewsletter@luther.edu.

Message from Corey Landstrom
Vice President and Dean for Student Life

It is time for a change of pace. The fall semester has come to a close, and for many students this provides a relatively brief break before beginning the January Term. J-term brings a range of possibilities for students—possibilities quite unlike those in a traditional semester.
For first-year students, this will be their first experience with January Term and the wonderful educational opportunities it provides. Students will be enrolled one of the 29 courses offered and immerse themselves in that one subject. They'll get to know a faculty member in a different way, and the experience can propel students toward a possible major or minor. The pacing and structure of a J-term course is quite different from a traditional semester. Students may need to adjust their study habits and consider how to keep up with work over the three weeks. It will be different than taking three or four courses at one time over 14 weeks. I am envious of the opportunity students will have to dive into a first-year seminar.

Read more

Changes to the Break Shuttles

Beginning January 2019 there will be changes to the Luther College Break Shuttles ticket purchasing policy. These changes are being made in an effort to minimize stress by allowing more time to prepare drivers and vehicles to accommodate students wishing to ride the shuttle. The new policy is stated below:

Reservations made less than four days (96 hours) prior to the time/date of departure will be accommodated with a non-refundable late fee of $10.00. Ticket purchasing closes two days (48 hours) before the shuttle leaves.

We hope to encourage passengers to purchase shuttle tickets in advance, to prevent last-minute accommodations for changes in passenger numbers. We are also reducing the $30 late accommodation fee to $10 when purchasing a ticket within 2-4 days prior to the shuttle leaving.

We recognize the importance of family and hope that the advance purchase of shuttle tickets will create a more consistent transportation service for our students traveling home for breaks.

If you have questions about the shuttles, please email dyerja01@luther.edu

Luther News

Luther's 2018 Christmas message

Have you had a chance to view Luther College's 2018 Christmas message?

View now

Luther Events Calendar

Men and Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Loras College
Saturday, Jan. 5
1:00 p.m.
Home

**Dorian Vocal Festival Grand Concert**
Monday, Jan. 14
7:00 p.m.
Center for Faith and Life

**Women's Basketball vs. Loras College**
Wednesday, Jan. 16
6:00 p.m.
Home

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**All Thing$ Financial**

- Remind your students to check with any outside agency scholarships that we have not yet received payment from. Have them check when spring payment will be made and if anything is needed before payment can be made (ex: transcript, copy of billing statement, etc).

- Please remember to file the 2019-20 FAFSA online at [https://fafsa.ed.gov/](https://fafsa.ed.gov/). The FAFSA for 2019-20 was available starting October 1, 2018. This FAFSA uses 2017 tax information.

- Spring semester bills will be mailed mid-December. Payments are due by January 10, 2019. Any questions regarding bills or Form 1098-T should be directed to Financial Services at (563) 387-1015.

- Remind your students to log on to their [my.luther.edu](https://my.luther.edu) to authorize Luther College to deliver their W-2 and 1098T electronically. This allows quicker access to these documents.

- If your student(s) claimed an EXEMPT status in 2018 on the federal or state W-4, they will need to complete a new 2019 W-4 with the Student Employment Office. Reminder emails will be going to students in January.

- Please do not open emails from IRS Online that contain an attachment labeled "Tax Account Transcript" or something similar. This is a scam and these emails may contain malware. The IRS does not send unsolicited emails to the public and does not send emails containing sensitive information.

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