



# Opening Convocation

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AUGUST 31, 2023 • 9:40 AM • CENTER FOR FAITH AND LIFE, LUTHER COLLEGE

## OPENING CONVOCATION PROGRAM

Call to Convocation

Luther Trumpet Ensemble  
John T. Cord, director of Luther Trumpet Ensemble  
and associate professor of music

Processional

*Trumpet Tune in C*

Alexander Meszler, college organist and assistant professor of music  
*Wayne L. Wold (1954)*

Invocation

Melissa Bills, director of college ministries and college pastor

Gathering Song

see insert

*Earth and All Stars (ELW 731)*

Litany of Mission

As the students, staff, and faculty of Luther College, we are bound together by common values, vision, and hope. Ours is a community where faith meets learning, river meets bluff, foundation meets innovation, and history meets future. At the start of this new academic year, let us celebrate the gifts of this community and reaffirm the heart of our shared mission:

We are a community of reformation:

**We affirm the liberating power of faith and learning.**

Where the Spirit of the Lord is,

**there is freedom.** (2 Corinthians 3:17)

We are a community of belonging:

**We embrace diversity and challenge one another to learn in community.**

We discern our callings.

**We serve with distinction for the common good.**

What does the Lord require of you?

**To do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.** (Micah 6:8)

We are a community of faith:

**We are deeply rooted in an understanding of grace and freedom.**

We are boldly open in worship, study, and service.

**We seek truth, examine our faith, and care for God's people and creation.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.** (Psalm 67:3-4)

We are a community of learning:

**We move beyond our immediate interests and our present knowledge into our larger world.**

We discipline minds and develop whole persons.

**We are equipped to understand and confront a changing society.**

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

**teach me your paths.** (Psalm 25:4)

We are a community of intersection:

**We stand at the meeting of river, woodland, and prairie.**

We practice joyful stewardship of the resources that surround us.

**We are enlivened and transformed by encounters with one another, by the exchange of ideas, and by the life of faith and learning.**

Do not be conformed to this world,

**but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.** (Romans 12:2)

# EARTH AND ALL STARS!



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!  
3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!  
4 Class-rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!  
5 Knowl-edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!  
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!  
Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!  
Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!  
Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Welcome	Jenifer K. Ward, president
Installation of Endowed Chairs	Brad Chamberlain, provost
Introduction of the Speaker	Robert Clay, chief equity and inclusion officer and assistant to the president for community engagement
Convocation Speaker	Javier Zamora author of <i>Solito: A Memoir</i>
Interlude <i>Cielito Lino</i>	Mexican trad., arr. Juan Tony Guzmán Joseph Krumholtz, Luis Galvez, Grace Rosholt, violin Nicholas Shaneyfelt, piano
Benediction	Pastor Melissa Bills
Recessional <i>Toccata on "Great Day"</i>	Alexander Meszler <i>Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)</i>

## ENDOWED CHAIRS, PROFESSORSHIPS, AND DIRECTORSHIPS

The Birkestrand Economics and Management Endowed Chair was established by Suzanne Birkestrand and Dennis Birkestrand '64, former business owners who believe in and support the entrepreneurial spirit that drives our nation's free-market economy, in recognition of the profound impact Luther College has had on their lives. The Birkestrand Chair shall be a strong teaching scholar dedicated to empowering undergraduates to achieve, who recognizes the importance of free-market-friendly perspectives on economic theory, private enterprise, and good business practices in classroom discussions.

**The Birkestrand Economics and Management Endowed Chair for 2023–26 is Gregory K. Patton.**

## CONTINUING/RETURNING ENDOWED CHAIRS AND PROFESSORSHIPS

Bert M. and Mildred O. Dahl Chair in Economics	Steve Holland
Kermit O. and Jane E. Hanson Professorship in History	Anna Peterson
The Wilford A. Johnson Chair in Biblical Studies	Robert Shedinger
Dennis M. Jones Chair in Humanities	Kristin Swanson
Weston Noble Endowed Chair in Music	Andrew Last
Orlando W. Qualley Chair in Classics	Dan Davis
Marilyn Roverud Endowed Fellowship in Lutheran Studies	Brooke Joyce
Russell R. Rulon Endowed Chair in Biology	Stephanie Fretham
Tomson Family Endowed Chair in Norwegian Language and Modern Nordic Culture	Maren Johnson

## CONTINUING/RETURNING CENTER DIRECTORS

Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT)	Kate Elliott
Center for Ethics and Public Engagement (CEPE)	Andrew Hageman
Center for Sustainable Communities	Jon Jensen
Richard L. and Judith A. Torgerson Center for Nordic Studies	Maren Johnson

## ABOUT JAVIER ZAMORA

Memoirist and poet Javier Zamora shares the unforgettable story of his harrowing migration from El Salvador to the United States at only nine years old in *Solito: A Memoir*. The 3,000-mile journey is supposed to last two weeks, but after their guide abandons them in Oaxaca, it stretches into two life-altering months spent among strangers turned guardians before finally arriving in the United States. Longlisted for the PEN America 2023 Literary Awards, *Solito* was a *New York Times* bestseller.

Now, Javier Zamora chronicles his revelatory journey as an immigrant and as an artist to audiences at universities, organizations, libraries, and more. Going beyond his harrowing border crossing, Zamora explores the ways he has been processing and healing from trauma ever since, from therapy to poetry to nature hikes. As a native Salvadoran who grew up as an undocumented American, he delves into the intersecting and conflicting meanings of home and identity.

Until recently, Zamora had only a temporary protected status and was neither a citizen nor a permanent resident of the United States, making him ineligible for many poetry award submissions. In 2015, he cofounded the UndocuPoets, a “group fighting to end citizenship-based discrimination in poetry publishing and contests,” and drafted a petition urging literary organizations to remove citizenship or residency as a requirement for applications. As a result, the American Academy of Poets, the Poetry Foundation, the Lambda Literary Foundation, and more opened their prize submissions to any poet regardless of immigration status.

Javier Zamora has been a Stegner fellow at Stanford University and a Radcliffe Fellow at Harvard and holds fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. His debut poetry collection, *Unaccompanied*, is rooted in the indelible experiences that we learn more of in his memoir.

Zamora holds a BA from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MFA from New York University. The recipient of the 2017 Narrative Prize, the 2016 Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award, and the 2020 Pushcart Prize, Zamora has been published in *Granta*, the *Kenyon Review*, *American Poetry*, the *New Republic*, the *New York Times*, and *Poetry*, among other publications. Javier Zamora lives in Tucson, Arizona.

## ABOUT THE FLAG DISPLAY

The 30 flags displayed on stage represent the home countries of the class of 2027.

