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MLHS breaks ground for music center

\$2 million project is Phase II of the school's master plan

By Helen Clarke April 8, 2008

MANITOWOC — In a music-heavy ceremony Monday morning, the significance of building a new music center at Manitowoc Lutheran High School was clear.

The members of the Concert Choir, Cantate Choir and MLHS Band took to their songs, proof of the substantial participation in the school's music programs, in which two-thirds of the 232-member student body participate.

But the school's current music room meets less than 50 percent of the minimum band room standards, band director Randy Kramer said. It is 3,000 square feet in totality with 9- to 11-foot ceilings, and holds 70 Concert Choir students at its fullest.

"The truck that says A.C.E. Building has only been in the parking lot for a week," Principal Dennis Steinbrenner told the hundreds of students and stakeholders who gathered Monday for a groundbreaking service. "But this project has been on the burner for three years."

The new 16,000-square-foot facility — which includes large rehearsal rooms for band and choir, several practice rooms for individuals and ensembles, and sufficient storage space for robes and instruments — is scheduled to open this fall.

The music center is Phase II of Manitowoc Lutheran High School's master plan, which began eight years ago. Phase I of that plan resulted in the 2004 construction of a \$1.3 million commons.

"The real foundation of this building project ... is the rock-solid foundation of God's word," said the Rev. Steven Hahm of First German Evangelical Lutheran Church. "Many people from all across this federation took out their checkbooks ... many of them probably didn't know any one of you."

As the music center is completed, four windows also will be added to the existing music rooms as they are transformed to house the art department. The total cost of the project is \$2 million.

Future renovations and additions include improved technical education facilities, a new gymnasium, new locker rooms, the transformation of the existing gym into a chapelorium and moving offices from



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Co-pastors Nicholas Maglietto, far left, and Paul Schosow of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Manitowoc, along with Mark Walters of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Maribel, scoop a shovel of ground outside Manitowoc Lutheran High School on Monday during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Phase II Music Center addition to the school. Nineteen area pastors of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod federation participated in the event using shovels from the 2004 groundbreaking of Phase I that involved the commons addition at the school. Sue Pischke/HTR Helen Clarke: (920) 686-2137 or hclarke@htnews.co

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the west to the north end of the building. In the next 10 to 15 years, Reinhard said efforts could expand to include exterior athletic fields, security upgrades and general remodeling.

Ongoing information and updates regarding the capital appeal, as well as photos of the building project, are available at www.mlhslancers.com.

Helen Clarke: (920) 686-2137 or hclarke@htrnews.com