

# knightwatch weekly



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MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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## Students Stage Challenging Play: *The Giver*

As audience members waited for the production to start, many knew what to expect—but not really. “One of the great things about this show is how familiar *The Giver* is,” said the show’s producer **Kristi Koelpin** (MVL). “The majority of MLC students and community members knew the storyline but were eager to see how we would undertake the difficult task of portraying the story’s colorless and emotionless society on stage.” The cast and crew did a wonderful job of making these mind-boggling experiences feel like reality. And although the play was very serious, the cast still had a ton of fun bringing it together. **Noah Willitz** (MLS) didn’t ever take things too seriously. On stage, Noah’s character, Jonas, endured a painful internal struggle and some physical pain too, as he broke his leg. But offstage, Noah joked, “People always say ‘break a leg’ before performances, and for once, I actually got to break my leg every time!”



*The Giver*, played by **Patrick Loroff** (Lakeside), and *Jonas*, played by **Noah Willitz** (MLS)

## Sharing the Gospel in Russia

The Olympics in Russia are over, but something much more important is still happening there: the sharing of the gospel. MLC graduates **Erik Janke** (LPS) and **Amanda Burk** (MVL) are spending the year in Tomsk, teaching English and leading Bible studies. **Joanna Wordell** (West) spent the first semester there and is now back at MLC. “The work in Russia is being blessed by God,” she says. “Most Russians have never read the Bible and don’t know what it says! We were so happy when God gave us opportunities to tell people Jesus died for their sins and there’s nothing they have to do, because God sacrificed his only Son—for them! It was a beautiful thing.” **Johannah Crass** (LPS) plans to join the expanding mission effort in Russia next year. She says, “I’m excited to go to Russia because the harvest is plentiful. I’m looking forward to immersing myself in a new culture and building relationships with the Russian people.”

## Meet Steve Roekle

Although college students transfer to MLC every year, **Steve Roekle’s** story is anything but usual. After graduating from *Shoreland*, he still wasn’t sure where to go. He decided on a local private college, but he wasn’t there for long. “I was there for about two weeks,” Steve says, “and I liked it there, but I just felt I had made the wrong choice. I called my dad and told him I had changed my mind and wanted to go to MLC. A couple days later, I was up in New Ulm moving in.” Now a junior, Steve is majoring in elementary ed and secondary social studies ed. He enjoys playing intercollegiate soccer and every intramural sport. He also hosts the live radio talk show “Average Joe Sports Show” with his brother Dave. “I’m still not really sure exactly why or how I ended up here at MLC, but in the end, I made the right decision, and I’m thankful to be here.”

